

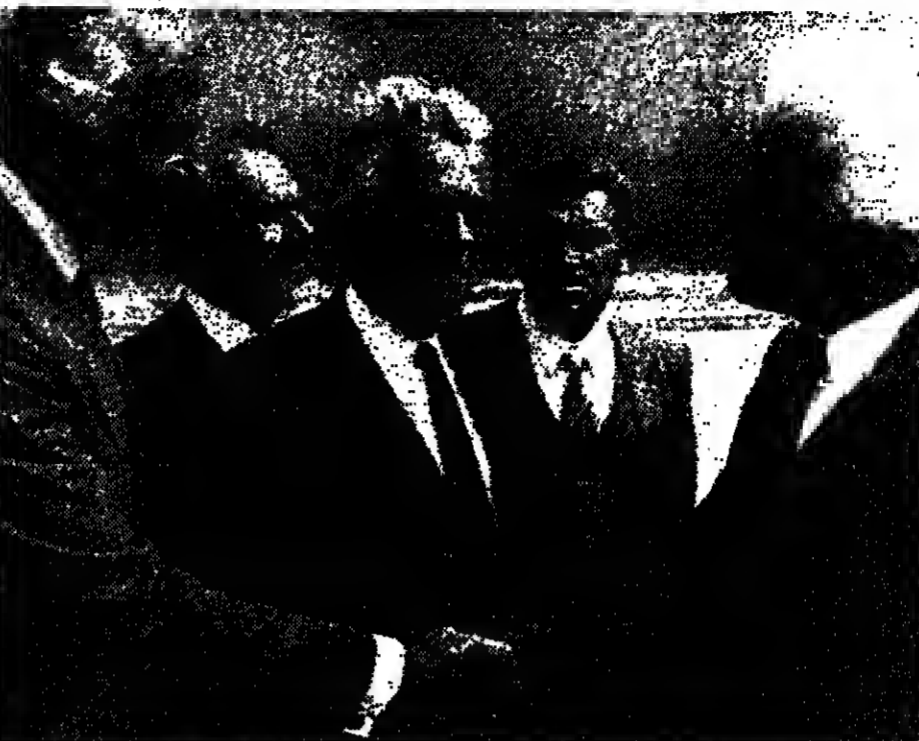


President summons Shevardnadze to White House

Reagan talks tough in row over Daniloff

Mr Shevardnadze was called for White House talks to try to prevent greater damage to superpower relations... The US envoy at the Stockholm Security Conference was furious about Washington press leaks... President Reagan remonstrated with Mr Shevardnadze about the detention in Moscow of Nicholas Daniloff... Izvestia bitterly attacked Sir Geoffrey Howe for comparing the Daniloff affair with the Chernobyl disaster

From Christopher Thomas, Washington... President Reagan unexpectedly called Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to the Oval Office yesterday to remonstrate forcefully about the continued detention of the American journalist, Mr. Nicholas Daniloff, on "trumped up" spying charges... The unscheduled encounter came at the end of the opening session of two days of critical talks between Mr. George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr. Shevardnadze, who are trying to avoid even greater damage to superpower relations caused by the Daniloff affair... The two ministers met with only their interpreters for nearly three hours while their respective delegations sat in an ante-room awaiting a plenary session. Mr. Shultz then telephoned the white house and asked if Mr. Reagan wanted to meet Mr. Shevardnadze immediately... The White House said Mr. Reagan planned to give some "straight talk" on the Daniloff case, and to underscore human rights issues when he



Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze (right), the Soviet Foreign Minister, arriving yesterday at Andrews Air Force Base to be met by the US Ambassador to Moscow, Mr. Arthur Hartman.

Express trains in head-on crash

Two passenger express trains crashed head-on on the Liverpool to London main line near Rugeley, Staffordshire, last night... At least one person was feared dead and many were trapped with serious injuries when the 5.20pm Liverpool to Euston and 4pm Euston to Manchester trains collided at the village of Colwich... Fifty firemen in 10 appliances rushed to the scene of the collision and began attempting to cut victims from the wreckage... A fire brigade spokesman said: "There are a large number of people with major injuries, and an unspecified number with serious injuries, and there are people trapped."

Breakthrough for US scientists Drug brings hope for Aids victims

From Paul Vallely, New York... Scientists working in 12 medical centres throughout the United States have reported a significant breakthrough in the treatment of the disease Aids... An experimental drug, azidothymidine, known as AZT, has had such dramatic success in trials at the 12 centres that the experimental programme is to be terminated. All eligible Aids patients will now be given the drug... Public health officials and representatives of the drug company that developed AZT emphasized yesterday that the new anti-viral agent did not immediately offer help to all those dying of the disease... "AZT is not a cure for Aids. Although the study results show great promise, uncertainties remain," Dr. Robert Windom of the National Institutes of Health said... But the success of the trials is such that many doctors taking part raised ethical questions about whether it was right to withhold the drug from those patients receiving placebo tablets in the tests... The trials have used patients with pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP), one of the most common causes of death among people whose disease-fighting capacity has been destroyed by the Aids virus... Since April, 280 patients have received drugs from the research team at Burroughs-Wellcome, which is doing the development work, but 140 of them were a control group who received placebos. The lives of those treated with AZT have been prolonged considerably... Now the drug will be made available, under clinical supervision, to all Aids patients suffering from PCP. Dr. David Barry, vice-president for research at Burroughs, said: "This is estimated to involve 6,000 people. As yet patients in whom Aids manifests itself in other ways, such as Kaposi's Sarcoma, a skin cancer, are not to be included. Aids has been diagnosed in 24,000 Americans, about half of whom have died. But scientists suspect that the virus now infects as many as two million people who have not yet displayed any symptoms. Advances in treatment have been limited to dealing with the secondary diseases that Aids causes. The new drug is the first to deal with the Aids virus more directly... The most recent research, which indicates that Aids may be a number of viruses working in combination, confirms that when it enters the body it seeks to inject itself into certain cells, chiefly the immune defence cells known as T cells. There it commandeers each cell's machinery to make copies of itself, eventually killing the cell. The copies then invade other cells... AZT is a fraudulent thymidine which acts in a similar way. But its crucial difference is that it can link up at only one end of a genetic chain. When it is added to a lengthening chain of reproduction by the Aids virus it suddenly terminates the chain."

Accident legacy 'greater safety'

By Peter Davenport... Improved safety standards will be the legacy of the Manchester air disaster. Mr Colin Marshall, the chief executive of British Airways said yesterday at the end of the inquest on the 55 passengers and crew who died... British Airways had introduced many of the changes of recommendation outlined during the 10-day inquest in Manchester, he said... Mr Marshall was speaking after the jury had returned verdicts of accidental death on all 53 passengers and two stewardesses who died on on August 22 last year when smoke and flames engulfed British Airways Boeing 737 after a "catastrophic explosion" in the port engine... The Pratt and Whitney engine involved had been and still is regarded as one of the most reliable in the world. The rupture of a combustor can which triggered the events was unprecedented... Mr Marshall added: "The coroner explained that the engine failure in the Manchester accident was more than a many millions to one chance." He added: "However, we have noted his statement that there is no blame that can be attached to anyone for the accident particularly with regard to the state of knowledge at that time." Mr Marshall outlined six changes made to the fleets of British Airways and its subsidiary British Airtours... ● Replacement: combustion chambers on Boeing 737 aircraft are all new units... ● Pilots will stop aircraft on the runway to assess a problem, rather than attempt to pull clear. Pilots have also been told to take into consideration any wind and its possible effect on a fire... ● Modifications have been made to doors to make sure the jamming which occurred at Manchester cannot happen again... ● British Airways engineers have pioneered methods of examining combustion chambers on Boeing 737s using X-ray and Borescope tests... ● The airline was the first to order fire-blocking fabric for aircraft seats... ● The airline is continuing to work for a design for passenger smoke hoods... During the inquest evidence was given that Pratt & Whitney, the engine makers, had issued letters about possible problems in the combustion chambers of the JT8D. Airline officials told the coroner that they had believed those letters referred not to their engines but to an earlier unmodified version.

Next week EXCLUSIVE

My fight against Militant: by Robert Kilroy-Silk



Starting on Monday, The Times carries the first authentic account of how the Militant Tendency tried to oust Robert Kilroy-Silk from his safe Labour constituency. Day by day, his diary shows: ● how a fellow MP offered him the option of standing down or being blacklisted ● how Militant set out to take control by packing committees ● how his supporters faced physical intimidation ● how he felt betrayed by Parliamentary colleagues ● how he reached the decision to resign his seat



It is Kilroy-Silk's own, intimate diary of the plotting, the threats and the patronage that gave Militant the run of Merseyside politics

All next week in The Times

US envoy furious over talks leaks

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm... Acrimony unexpectedly blighted the final day of the Stockholm Security Conference yesterday as the fine print to the first major East-West agreement since the signing of the Salt 2 treaty in 1979 was being worked out... Mr Robert Barry, head of the United States delegation, was furious about press leaks in Washington on US concessions, which he said had undermined his negotiations... "There is nothing worse for a negotiator than to see his instructions published in the newspapers before he gets them. I am madder than hell and that is very much on the record," Mr Barry said... His mood was in contrast to that of the head of the Soviet delegation, Mr Oleg Grinevsky, who swapped jokes with journalists before rejoining last minute negotiations... Mr Grinevsky referred to disputes over Western inspection of military activities in the Soviet Union and asked: "What difference does it make if the inspectors use a Volga or a Land-Rover?" He said he expected remaining problems to be solved and for the conference to finish on time. The US was reported to have agreed to a compromise on the issue of aircraft to be inspected by inspectors of military activity... Mr Barry's position, as reported in Washington the day before, was that the state

TSB stags face fines

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent... Hundreds of applicants for Trustee Savings Bank shares have been breaking the rules by sending in multiple applications and could face criminal prosecution with fines of up to £8,900... Peat Marwick Mitchell, the accountant checking multiple applications on the £1.5-billion issue, said yesterday that it expected to find hundreds more before the offer closes on September 24. The offer is expected to attract millions of applications after intense public interest... "The miscreants are using all the combination of tricks you can think of for disguising multiple applications," said Mr James Conway, one of the accountants responsible for investigating suspects... Typical ruses include putting in applications for the dog, the cat and the goldfish, or using different addresses under the same name... "But there are some simple ones," Mr Conway added. "One individual simply sent in two forms with the same name and address on each." The suspected cases will be investigated further by PMM when the flotation is completed, but the decision to prosecute lies with the bank itself... Meanwhile, new "wanted" posters were circulated to police forces throughout France yesterday, bearing the photographs of four of the brothers of Georges Ibrahim

Chirac puts ban on Paris protests

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris... President Mitterrand of France was greeted by M Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, on his return from a trip to Indonesia last night and went to discuss with top Ministers the spate of bomb attacks in the French capital which began a fortnight ago... In a deliberate display of national unity in the face of the crisis, M Chirac earlier called in the leaders of the five main political parties to discuss the Government's anti-terrorist plans... Following the separate meetings, M Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme right-wing National Front Party, said M Chirac had told him that all public demonstrations are to be banned... M le Pen had planned a public demonstration next Monday to protest against the terrorist bombings... Meanwhile, new "wanted" posters were circulated to police forces throughout France yesterday, bearing the photographs of four of the brothers of Georges Ibrahim

Portfolio Gold

There is £12,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition, the £8,000 weekly prize and the £4,000 daily... Yesterday's £4,000 prize was won outright by Mr P Sloane, of Farnborough, Hants. Details, page 3... Portfolio lists, pages 20 and 25; rules and how to play, page 35.

Loan rate fears hit shares

Growing fears of higher interest rates hit share prices on the London stock market yesterday... The FT-30 share index fell 10.5 to 1,269.1, while the broader-based FT-SE 100 lost 13.8 to 1,600.4... Some City economists fear a rise of up to 1 per cent in bank base rates. The pound rose by 1/2 cent to \$1.4765 and just over 1 penny to DM 2.94... Meanwhile, the price of gold hit a four-year high, rising \$10.25 to \$430 an ounce... Market nerves, page 21 Market report, page 23

Resign threat by Roebuck

Peter Roebuck, the Somerset captain, has threatened to resign from the club if the two West Indians, Viv Richards and Joel Garner, dismissed last month, are reinstated. Roebuck's move comes as Somerset prepare to vote on the issue at an extraordinary general meeting.

Funeral plea

Two thousand mourners who packed the Holy Cross Catholic Church at Ardoyne for the funeral of Mr Raymond Mooney, aged 32, the lay worker shot by masked men on Tuesday, heard a peace appeal by the Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor.

Spend today

A pension can be used for day-to-day living expenses even before retirement... Family Money, pages 26-34

Walker accused over coal strike

By a Staff Reporter... Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, has been accused by Sir Ian MacGregor, the former chairman of the National Coal Board, of actions during the 1984 coal strike that might have prolonged the strike... The charge is made in Sir Ian's forthcoming book The Enemies Within, the first extract of which will be published in The Sunday Times tomorrow... He describes Mr Walker's approach to the year-long dispute in bitter terms and makes it clear that he was

Rabies squads guard Channel Tunnel

By Hugh Clayton Environment Correspondent... Ratscatchers may have to patrol the Channel Tunnel as part of a "disinfection programme", to prevent rabies from escaping from the Continent to Britain. The Ministry of Agriculture would give no explanation yesterday about the "special hunting/retrieving procedures" mentioned in a list of possible rabies controls for the tunnel... It would confirm only that hounds would not be used to

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Government to act after three social workers die

By Jill Sherman

After the deaths of three social workers in the past 18 months the Government is to call a conference on the safety of social service department staff.

In addition the Association of Directors of Social Services is to produce guidelines which all local authorities could follow and set up a working party to collect information on the problem.

by the Association of Directors of Social Services yesterday are likely to be issued in the next two months. They could include personal alarms for social workers and a recommendation that female workers should not visit clients on their own.

Mr Fowler also announced that a fundamental review of personal social services will be published later this year to complement initiatives already undertaken in social security and primary health care.

The death of the Bexhill social worker, Frances Bettebridge, at the hands of her client's boy friend last month has provoked widespread concern among social service departments for the safety of their staff.

At the Social Services Directors annual conference in Cardiff yesterday, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that the Government conference would bring together managers and staff from the NHS, social security and personal social services.

"We have a responsibility to the caring profession to ensure that they have the best available protection. Those who help the public are entitled to help from the public. The community has a duty to protect those who serve it," Mr Fowler said.

The problem was found throughout the caring services, particularly in accident and emergency departments and psychiatric wards, he said.

He emphasized the need for greater security in all health service premises and said the Department of Health aimed to train social security staff to identify potentially violent situations and to take steps to prevent assault.

The number of children in long-stay hospitals had dropped from 7,100 in 1969 to 590 in 1985.

Mr Fowler also reassured social workers that resources would be provided to retain the present level of social worker training.

Japanese press for new TV

Japan is refusing to admit defeat in its battle to introduce a new kind of television to Europe which is claimed to offer the possibility of cinematic quality pictures.

At the International Broadcasting Convention in Brighton yesterday, the Japanese took over a cinema to show a 30-minute programme produced using a technique called High Definition Television (HDTV). While conventional European television uses 625 horizontal lines to make up a picture, the Japanese systems use 1,250 lines, producing images that are noticeably sharper.

The Japanese demonstration was a clear signal to European broadcasters that Japan has not been scared off by the efforts of European broadcasting authorities to stop HDTV from being adopted as a worldwide standard.

● The Government has approved a BBC-developed system of stereo television. The first stereo transmissions are expected to start within two years.

Stereo television receivers are expected to cost about £100 more than current sets.

Paris trips cancelled by British

Travel agencies yesterday reported a 20 per cent drop in tourists to Paris as hundreds of travellers cancelled plans to visit the French capital, after six bombings there in the past two weeks.

Agency spokesmen in London complained of cancellations and a sharp drop in bookings after Wednesday's blast, in which five people were killed and 61 injured. But several travel agencies said the majority of holidaymakers are still travelling to Paris.

Ten people have died and more than 250 have been injured in the 12 bomb attacks carried out in Paris and on the Paris-Lyon express train in the past nine months.

A London-based French travel agency reported that about 25 per cent of tourists, who were set to visit Paris in the next fortnight, have cancelled their bookings in the past few days.

A spokesman said that several people, who telephoned to cancel their reservations, asked to be booked into other French resorts while some postponed their holiday plans.

London judges asked to work overtime

Judges in the Central Criminal Court in London are being asked to work overtime to cut the growing backlog of cases awaiting trial.

From October 6 the court's 20 judges will be expected to sit from 10am until 5pm, an extra hour and a half each day.

There are 1,200 cases awaiting hearing, an unacceptable level, according to a court official.

The extra work the judges are being asked to undertake is part of a London-wide crown court "blitz" to reduce the waiting list.



The Princess of Wales with Commander Toby Elliott, on the conning tower of the nuclear powered submarine, HMS Trafalgar, last month. The royal visit is one of the highlights of *In Private, In Public: The Prince and Princess of Wales*, an ITN programme, being shown tomorrow and Monday (Photograph: Tim Graham/ITN).

Four jailed for savage attack

Three youths who carried out a "brutal and savage attack" on a young British Transport policeman were sentenced to eight years' youth custody yesterday. A fourth, who is 21, was sent to prison for eight years.

The four were all convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Police Constable Neil Harvey, aged 28. He suffered multiple skull and facial fractures after the attack and had to be put on a life support machine.

The four youths were all cleared after a 13-day trial of attempted murder and of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to resist arrest.

The four were: Alan Richardson, aged 19, and his brother Colin, aged 18, both of Boston Road, Nottingham; David James, aged 21, who was jailed, and John Melnichenko, aged 19, both of Gregory Street, Lenton, Nottingham.

Mr Brian Appleby, QC, for the prosecution, said that PC Harvey, married with a young son, was attacked while on early morning patrol in Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham.

The youths were told by Mr Justice Tucker at Nottingham Crown Court: "This was a brutal and sustained attack". All four youths pleaded not guilty to all three charges. They claimed that they made false confessions under police pressure.

Acid rain 35 years to end pollution

Britain's share of acid rain from power stations will dwindle almost to nothing in the next 35 years, Lord Marshall of Goring, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, predicted yesterday.

"After the turn of the century our existing stations will be replaced by new stations that do not emit sulphur," he explained.

Mr William Waldegrave, a Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, said that it was technically possible to conquer acid rain and the damage it caused.

Both men emphasized, at a London conference organized by the National Society for Clean Air, that elimination of acid from soil and fresh water would take a long time and that acid rain originating from power stations was not the only cause of damage.

"People in Scandinavia have told me that it is not the acidic deluge that is killing trees," Mr Waldegrave said. "It is something much more complicated than that."

Lord Marshall said that recent research had supported early board scepticism about the extent of acid rain damage and the size of Britain's share of it. He conceded that acid rain falling on acid soil killed fish, but was sceptical about links claimed between acid rain and damage to trees in Scandinavia.

IRA informer 'a gift horse'

A police officer explained at the Central Criminal Court yesterday why he continued to "run" an IRA informer although the material he was passing on contained lies.

Det Supt Alan Law, head of Lancashire Special Branch, told the jury: "We do not look a gift horse in the mouth. Informers in the IRA are very scarce."

Mr Law said he also became aware that Raymond O'Connor, aged 50, a petty criminal, was "given to drink".

But although they treated Mr O'Connor with caution, neither his drinking nor his 15 convictions deterred the undercover officers from using his services.

On trial is Thomas Maguire, aged 27, who, according to Mr O'Connor, the main prosecution witness, acted as go-between in a plot to blow up the Eagle and Child Inn, used by soldiers and their families from the Army camp at Weston, Blackpool.

Mr Maguire pleads not guilty to conspiring between January 1982 and April 1983 with Patrick Magee, Patrick Murray and others to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom.

Women to keep up chain vigil at dump

A group of Lincolnshire housewives said yesterday they will remain chained to a tractor blocking the main entrance to the proposed nuclear waste site at Fulbeck until police unpadlock them.

One of the protesters, Mrs Rachel Toynce, aged 21, from Welbourne, who is six months pregnant, said she had volunteered to help to maintain a chained vigil as a last resort to delay test drilling equipment being delivered to the site.

She said she will remain chained to the tractor at least seven hours each day until contractors, employed by Nirex, the government nuclear waste agency, turn up.

Folkie yesterday had to carry away protesters who lay down on the road in front of the main entrance gates at the Killingholme site in south Humberside.

A convoy of nine lorries with a police escort turned up at the site at 6.30am. But anti-nuclear protesters blocked the main entrance with five cars.

As police moved the cars and protesters, Nirex contractors used bolt cutters to cut a chain on the gate.

A Humberside Against Nuclear Dumping spokesman said sheriff's officers threw copies of the High Court injunction obtained last week, at the feet of the protesters who refused to take them.

The Killingholme move came 24 hours after a High Court injunction had been served against some of the 24 Humberside protesters named. Contractors delivered drilling equipment to the Bradwell-on-Sea dumping site in Essex in a similar early morning move last Tuesday.

Detective on computer secrets charge

A Hampshire private detective appeared in Winchester Magistrates' Court yesterday accused of contravening the Official Secrets Act after a police investigation into alleged misuse of the police national computer.

Stephen Bartlett, aged 26, from Basingstoke, was remanded on bail of £1,000.

The police said they had also interviewed a police sergeant in the West Midlands force and a private detective from the Wolverhampton area.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Portfolio Gold - Win pays for diving holiday

Mr Paul Sloane from Farnborough, Hampshire, was yesterday's sole winner of *The Times Portfolio Gold* prize of £4,000.

Mr Sloane, the director of a computer software company, said he had been playing the *Portfolio Gold* game since it started.

"I am delighted to have won," he said yesterday. Mr Sloane, aged 36, said that he would spend his winnings on a scuba diving excursion in Hawaii.

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a *Portfolio Gold* card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: *Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.*

Cashier 'filled in winners'

Linda Gibbs put blank betting slips through the till at William Hill bookmakers in Kentish Town, north London, where she worked as a part-time cashier. Highbury magistrates were told yesterday.

Next day she would enter the winner's name on the blank slip and claim the winnings, Mr Miles Barker, for the prosecution, said.

Gibbs, aged 34, of Birchville Court, St John's Wood, London, admitted stealing £297 from William Hill. She also admitted stealing £5 from the company. She was allowed bail until October 17 for reports.

Mrs Payne to stand trial

Mrs Cynthia Payne, aged 53, charged with controlling prostitutes, elected for trial when she appeared at Camberwell Green Magistrates' Court in south London yesterday.

A second charge alleging that Mrs Payne, of Ambleside Avenue, Streatham, south London, ran a brothel was adjourned indefinitely.

Actor accused

Dennis Waterman, of the TV series *Minder*, is to appear before Dorling magistrates in Surrey on November 20 accused of a drink-driving offence.

Girl tells of alleged assault as she prayed

A schoolgirl told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that she was sexually assaulted by a self-styled preacher as she prayed at her bedside in the middle of the night.

"He knelt beside my bed and he took my hand and prayed for me. After a couple of minutes I felt hazy. I did not actually black-out but I went limp."

He put his hands under the blanket feeling my body. I cannot remember anything after that. I just went out," the girl aged 15 whispered to the jury.

The prosecution has alleged that the South African-born preacher, aged 57, drugged and raped Christian virgins while pretending to give them religious guidance.

He abused the trust placed in him by three women, Mr Hubert Dunn, QC, for the prosecution, has alleged.

Girl tells of alleged assault as she prayed

The girl said that the night before Easter Sunday the preacher and his wife arrived at about 2am, when she was asleep. She said the wife woke her up and said they wanted to pray for her.

The wife made her a chocolate drink and after she had drunk it left the room, the girl said.

She said the preacher knelt by her bed and, after saying a prayer, began to feel her body. The prosecution has alleged the drink was laced with a drug which induced stupor and unconsciousness.

Its effect was such that a girl could be raped and not remember it afterwards, Mr Dunn alleged. He said one of the alleged victims put her drowsy state afterwards down to her experience of God.

Mr Dunn has claimed that on numerous occasions both in Australia and London, the preacher said prayers and then had sexual intercourse with the girl giving evidence yesterday.

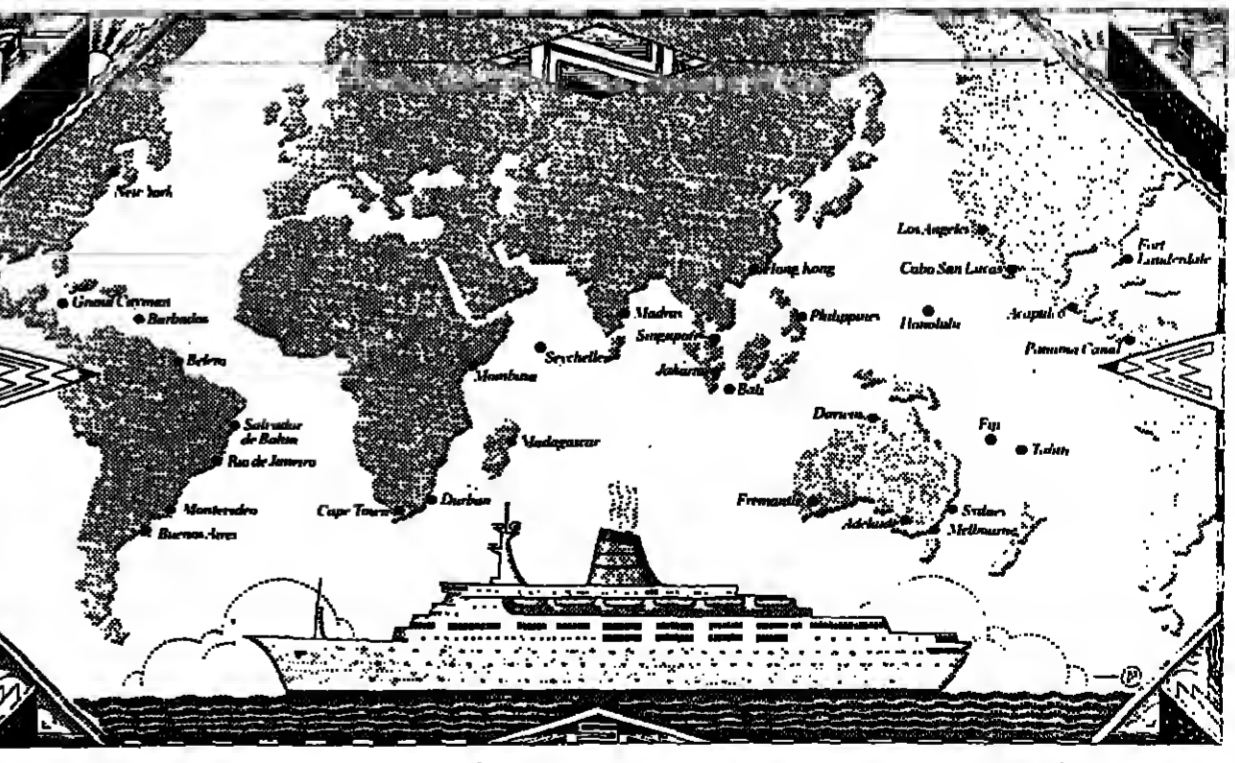
The girl told the court: "I did not think someone who says he is a great evangelist should go round raping people and doing the things he did."

"I did not tell anyone. I was just afraid of what people would say. They would not believe me, they would not believe the preacher would have sex with me. He was someone special."

In London the preacher is alleged to have drugged two other women aged 26 and 27, both born-again Christians and virgins, and raped one.

The hearing continues on Monday.

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Synthetic growth hormone developed

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain and the United States found that some of their patients had been infected, unknowingly, more than 12 years earlier by slow-acting viruses transmitted in the treatment.

The infection is believed to have occurred when the treatment was first introduced. Since the mid-1970s it is hoped that better purification of the human tissue has prevented contamination.

The synthetic compound is a product of genetic engineering.

The gene that normally instructs the pituitary gland to secrete HGH was extracted and spliced into a harmless bacterium.

Using a special method of growing microbes in fermentation tanks and of purifying the biochemicals they secrete, developed at Porton Down, the first batch of 400 litres was synthesized in 24 hours.

More than 20,000 pituitary glands would be needed to extract an equivalent amount of natural hormone.

defence reopened general MPs

unresolved pping vote

Salisbury Plain oil leakage

TIONS APETS

Hurd accuses pressure groups of hindering efficient government

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The growing role of pressure groups is getting in the way of good government, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said yesterday.

He issued a warning that their use of freer official information could harm the constitutional relationship between the Government and the governed.

"Members of Parliament and ministers both in my view need to shake themselves free to some extent from the embrace of pressure groups and interest groups," Mr Hurd said in a lecture to the Royal Institute of Public Administration.

He spoke of "the growth of these groups, their increased dominance of the media and the difference with which politicians regard them".

Mr Hurd said he does not see "magic" in the concept of freedom of information.

The amount of information released by the Government in recent years had steadily expanded and the present Government had given the chance for wide consultation. That expansion would no doubt continue.

"No one is satisfied with the present condition of the Official Secrets Act and no doubt in time to come some government will wish to put its hand to reform, as indeed this Government sought to do at the beginning of its term."

Mr Hurd said, however, he believes that one of the difficulties of the present system of government is the increasing role of pressure and interest groups.

He said that they interpose themselves between the executive on the one hand and Parliament and the electorate on the other.

"If freedom of information simply means freedom for pressure groups to extract from the system only those pieces of information which buttress their own cause, then conceivably the result might be greater confusion."

Having said that, my experience has generally been that the wise politician is one who prefers to reveal rather than to conceal, and I believe that this rather basic motive will continue to increase the flow of information to the public."

Mr Hurd added: "I would simply say as a practising politician that the weight of these groups, almost all of them pursuing a legitimate cause, has very substantially increased in recent years and adds greatly not just to the volume of work, but to the difficulty of achieving decisions in the general interest."

"They are like serpents constantly emerging from the sea to strangle Laocoon and his sons in their coils." His reference was to Laocoon, a priest in Greek legend who warned the Trojans against the wooden horse.

Mr Hurd also said he recognized there was a perception in some quarters that this Government is anti-Civil Service.

"Those who know and work closely with ministers will not in my view think this true; indeed the articulated criticism of the Civil Service which was heard from some ministers 20 years ago is quite absent."

"Nor in my view is there any doubt about the loyalty and dedication of Civil Servants."

Mr Hurd hinted at the need to reform the way constituencies are changed. "I believe that one day Parliament is going to have to get a grip on itself."

"It is, for example, absurd that under the existing arrangements the number of constituencies is bound to increase whenever adjustments are made to allow for increasing population. The House of Commons is already clearly too large."



Christopher Timothy, the actor, and Shirley Ann Field, the actress, helping to launch a £250,000 appeal yesterday for the National Children's Home. (Photograph: Dod Miller)

University lectures open to public

Undergraduate lectures in 28 departments of Exeter University are to be opened to the general public in the new academic year.

Anyone in Devon is eligible to attend all lectures in the faculties of arts, social studies, law, science, engineering and education. The scheme is designed to give non-students a taste of life as a student.

The academic services open to participants will include the university's library.

The lecture courses will be up to three hours a week during the 10-week autumn and spring terms and participants will pay a £10 registration fee and £10 a term for each course taken. They will not have to write papers or take examinations.

Solicitors get less of their income from conveyancing

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Conveyancing is still the chief, if declining, source of income for solicitors, particularly outside London, according to a survey published in this week's *Law Society Gazette*.

It constitutes more than 40 per cent of income for solicitors' firms outside London, although in central London the proportion is far lower.

But the survey of about 200 firms showed that the income from conveyancing is dropping compared with other kinds of work.

It also showed that in spite of a steady rise in income, solicitors' profits remained almost static. Firms taking part showed revenue growth of 12 per cent during 1985, which with inflation of about 5 per cent, implies real growth of 7 per cent, the survey says.

The extra income did not lead to higher profits however, as profit margins narrowed slightly in most regions.

The survey is the second to be conducted by Paragon, a project run by an independent non-profit-making body called Centre for Interfirm Comparison.

It concludes that in general there is a positive link between size and profitability, with larger firms tending to make more profit per partner than smaller firms.

That was particularly the case in central London and the north of England. But the South-east was an exception, with small firms more profitable than larger ones.

The survey took as a measure of profitability the net profits per partner after deducting a standard notional salary. That showed firms in outer London were the least profitable; those in central London the most profitable.

Of the provincial firms, those in the East tended to be more profitable than those in the West, with firms in the South-west and the North being close in the provincial average.

In terms of size, structure, work specialization and profitability, the central London firms tend to form a quite separate and distinct group from those in outer London and the provinces.

Firms are steadily becoming more computerized, and fewer than 15 per cent had no word-processing facilities. Roughly one in four firms had no computing facilities compared with one third last year.

Staff is the main item of costs, and makes up half of the revenue on average in most practices; almost 70 per cent of total costs.

Apart from staff, accommodation costs were the biggest single item of expenditure, totalling nearly £12,000 for every partner in a firm (£1,600 per each employee).

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Head has good case, judge says

The High Court judge who granted an injunction to a London head teacher, Miss Maureen McGaldrick, stopping a disciplinary hearing going ahead, said yesterday that she had a powerful case.

Mr Justice Garland was giving his reasons for granting the order last week, finding that the council had failed to follow its own disciplinary hearing after school governors had cleared Miss McGaldrick of racist behaviour.

He said he was "satisfied that Miss McGaldrick had a reasonably good prospect of success" at a full trial.

The National Union of Teachers, which fought the case on her behalf, failed to obtain an injunction restraining the council from continuing her suspension.

The judge said that a court would not, save for exceptional circumstances, grant an injunction requiring an employer to take back a suspended or dismissed employee. That aspect was best resolved at trial.

Teachers at Selsbury Infants School in Brent, north London, had gone on strike in support of their headmistress after her suspension.

Governors at the school had cleared her of the allegation that she told a junior official she did not want any more coloured staff. She claimed she said she did not want any more unqualified staff.

The judge has ordered a speedy trial of the main claim that the disciplinary proceedings by Brent were unlawful.

Iron Age plots up for sale

Half an acre of land inside an Iron Age village at West Penwith, Cornwall, is to be sold off in 21,780 separate square feet plots at £250 each to Cornishmen throughout the world to raise funds for its excavation by archaeologists.

The village was bought last year by Lady Akenham, a former grammar school teacher from Bradford.

Lady Akenham hopes to appoint a leading archaeologist to direct a dig.

In trial trenching in 1954, Samian ware, Roman pottery and traces of three "courtyard" houses were found.

Inquiry into patient deaths

An inquiry is to be held after the death or suicide of 16 patients and former patients of St John's Hospital, Lincoln.

The inquiry, by Trent Regional Health Authority, will also look into the care and treatment of psychiatric patients in north Lincolnshire.

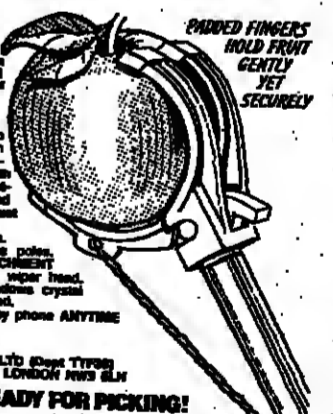
Rugby player attacked man

Paul Simpson, aged 28, the England rugby player, was yesterday fined £125 and ordered by Bath magistrates to pay £100 compensation for assaulting Mr Thomas Richards.

Mr Richards was kicked as he lay on the pavement after a nightclub fracas.

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Anti-terror agencies fight to point of conflict

France hamstrung by security rivalries

From Gavin Bell
Paris

They are taking away the flower boxes that line the Champs Elyse, and desks and benches from post offices throughout Paris. Anything that might be used to conceal a bomb is being removed from public places to deter further terrorist attacks.

The gesture at once illustrates the gravity of the threat and the apparent impotence of the French security services in combating it.

France has a huge apparatus of more than 200,000 men and women engaged in the struggle against terrorism. But they are severely handicapped in being split among a variety of military and civilian organizations divided by jealousy and rivalry.

The philosophy behind this policy is that a supreme in charge of all the police and intelligence agencies would wield awesome power, a prospect that makes the politicians decidedly nervous.

The front-line groups in the clandestine war come from two rival intelligence agencies: the DST, mainly concerned with counter espionage in France; and the DGSE, which carries out similar activity abroad.

Each has about 3,000 personnel, but there the similarity ends. The DST is a civilian unit reporting to the Interior Ministry, while the DGSE is a military force controlled by the Defence Ministry.

Interior also has a powerful tool in the DRG, a kind of political police force about 2,000-strong which monitors sources of political support for Basque and Corsican separatists and other potentially violent extremists.

Not only are these agencies reluctant to co-operate with each other, they often compete to the point of conflict.

A source close to the French intelligence community told *The Times* that efforts to coordinate their activities at executive level were largely ineffective.

"Take for example a case with the DGSE that identified a potential terrorist abroad. If the suspect enters France, they should in theory alert the



Applicants for the visas now required to enter France form a long queue along Fifth Avenue outside the French Consulate in New York.

DST. But in practice they do not, and continue to follow him themselves. The reasoning is, why should another service take the credit for our work?

For example, the DST established a network in Lebanon many years ago because of its historic ties with France. The DGSE resented what it regarded as interference in its theatre of operations, and in the late 1970s sent in its own men, officially to protect French troops joining the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

"So it is quite possible an informer is being manipulated by both services, without being aware of it," the source said.

The man with the unenviable post of co-ordinating the work of rival agencies is M Francois Le Moutel, head of the anti-terrorist unit called Uclat at the Interior Ministry.

Mr Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, has also created a national security council grouping the ministries concerned.

Neither body appears to have had much success in improving operational co-operation between the various services.

Gendarmerie General René Omnes, in a recent paper on the anti-terrorist struggle, concluded that there was a lack of direction: "Several organizations appear to be responsible for the same mission, with the corollary that each receives information that is not seriously analysed at the top level. Therefore no profit is gained from the valuable work of more than 200,000 men on the ground."

The lack of co-ordination is also inhibiting co-operation with the intelligence services of allied countries. Several are known to have complained that they never know who

they should be dealing with. "Another big problem facing the security forces is the nature of terrorism. You cannot manipulate a terrorist as easily as you can a spy," the source said.

"A spy is in the same profession as you, he operates in the same way, and so he can be persuaded to switch sides.

"A terrorist is an entirely different proposition. At best, he could turn informer. But then what do you do when he says that to maintain his credibility with his group he has to participate in a violent action — and you have to let it

happen, and let him get away with it? It's an awful moral dilemma."

At least twice in recent years, such informers are known to have been executed by their erstwhile comrades — one in Lebanon and two in France.

The source said the Government has ordered its intelligence agencies to become more aggressive in infiltrating terrorist cells, tracking down the mastermind (if he exists) and identifying their sources of training, money and arms.

But there again, there appears to be two schools of thought. The prevailing police view is that the bombings are the work of the family of Georges Ibrahim Abdullah, leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction, who is in a French prison.

The politicians perceive a more complex campaign aimed more at forcing France to withdraw from Lebanon, orchestrated by regional powers seeking a free hand to carve up the country.

In reviewing the campaign against the extreme-left group Action Directe, M Le Moutel said in a confidential report last December: "In the past, a number of arrests were made through intelligence gathered from informers. For more than a year, the specialized agencies have not had sufficiently reliable and above all well placed sources..."

"The difficulties regarding the pursuit and neutralization of a terrorist group that has acquired a fair degree of technical expertise are such that there can be no miracle solution."

It may be a long time before the flowers are restored to the Champs Elyse.

Guerrillas give Duarte victory in propaganda

From Philip Jacobson
Sesori, El Salvador

True to his word, President Duarte of El Salvador turned up in this remote town in the middle of guerrilla territory yesterday, the day appointed for peace talks with guerrilla leaders.

He immediately berated the guerrillas for failing to appear after the breakdown of preliminary talks earlier this week.

"I'm here at the right time in the right place on the right day," Señor Duarte told a crowd of several hundred people in the town square. "So where are they, those people who talk of peace all the time but won't come to Sesori to discuss it. You the people are here, the workers, the mothers, the children, but where is the other side?"

It was a vintage Duarte performance, long on rhetoric, rather shorter on specific proposals about how the faltering peace negotiations might be revived. And try as he would, his voice cracking from the strain and sweat streaming down his face, the President could not get much response from his audience. Possibly because many in his audience were refugees displaced by the civil war.

They told foreign journalists they had been put in buses and told to wave white flags and cheer at the right moment.

Once a prosperous town of 25,000 people, but with a population now reduced by fear to around 6,000, Sesori lies in the middle of one of the most disputed areas of El Salvador. The only way to approach it, unless you have the presidential helicopter, is along a series of back-breaking dirt roads.

It reminded me of a landing zone in Vietnam. The air seemed to be full of military helicopters, stirring up huge clouds of yellow dust and stripping nearby fields of their crops. Helicopter gunships hovered above the town as the President arrived and his speech was not aided by a Red Cross helicopter flying in circles above.

When he finished his address President Duarte retired to the church to hold a Mass for peace. Outside, his aides attempted to work the crowd into a better degree of enthusiasm, without noticeable success. It does not really matter, Señor Duarte said he would be here, he was, the guerrillas were out, and the desperately war-weary people will have taken that. Where the negotiations go next, if anywhere, remains to be seen.

Onus for Unifil laid on Israel

New York — Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday laid the onus for the beleaguered state of the UN forces in southern Lebanon on Israel (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

He urged collective measures to ensure that the Israeli defence forces dismantled their security zone and withdrew to their own borders in a report to the Security Council, which, at the request of France, was meeting later on the Unifil crisis.

The Secretary-General almost ignored the growing evidence that the mounting attacks against the UN peacekeepers was a concerted effort by fundamentalist Shia Muslim groups, drawing their inspiration from Iran, to compel the force to leave.

Pole flees under fire

Tirschenreuth, West Germany (AP) — A Polish man escaped unhurt across the Czechoslovak border to West Germany despite a hail of bullets from communist guards, but a second man was arrested. West German authorities said yesterday.

Czechoslovak border police opened fire on the two Poles, both aged 19, as they tried to flee into West Germany's Bavaria state.

Red Cross Sudan plea

Geneva — The International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday that it has often asked the Sudanese People's Liberation Army to allow food to be flown to the besieged town of Wau and other areas. "but so far all these efforts have been in vain" (Alan McGregor writes).

"The rules and spirit of international humanitarian law — and in particular the fundamental principle of humanity — require the belligerents to spare non-combatants and to do everything in their power to ensure civilians receive what is necessary for survival," the ICRC added.

Execution by injection

Raleigh, North Carolina (AP) — A man who confessed to robbing, beating and slashing a 25-year-old nurse was executed by injection out far from the field where he left her to bleed to death.

The last words of John William Rook, aged 27, were: "Freedom, freedom, at last, man. It's been a good one."

Asylum plea

Madrid (Reuters) — Twenty-three Poles, including eight children, who arrived at Madrid airport from Yugoslavia have asked for political asylum in Spain.

Inquiry ends

Jerusalem — The results of a two-month police inquiry into Shin Bet, the Israeli counter-intelligence agency, have been handed over to the Attorney-General.

Eagle killers

Vaasa, Finland (Reuters) — Finnish hunters who shot a white-tailed sea eagle have been fined £6,000.

Beef halted

Harare (Reuters) — Zimbabwe has suspended beef exports to the European Community to rebuild its herds, which were depleted by drought last year.

Boy isolated

Fountain Valley, California (AP) — School officials have ordered that a 13-year-old boy be isolated from his classmates because he refused to remove a diamond earring.

Drug murders

Moscow (Reuters) — Drug addicts in the Soviet Central Asian city of Alma-Ata have committed two murders and are responsible for more than half of all thefts and burglary in the area, an official newspaper said.

Hijack bill

Monrovia (AFP) — The Liberian Senate has passed a Bill making armed robbery, hijacking and terrorism punishable by death.

Border rows

Jerusalem — Two of the three international and neutral arbitrators needed to join the court which is to settle the 14 border disputes between Egypt and Israel have been approved by the two governments, according to unofficial sources here.

Tebbit backs Paris visa move in war on terrorists

Vienna (AP) — Mr Norman Tebbit, the chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday gave strong backing to the French Government's restrictions imposed on foreigners in its efforts to curb terrorism.

"If the foreign policy of a national government can be dictated by a small number of terrorists, sufficiently ruthless to murder without discrimination men, women, children... then we would have come to the end of civilized order in the world," he said.

Mr Tebbit commented on criticism of this week's decision by the French Government to introduce visas for citizens of several non-communist European countries outside the 12-nation European Economic Community.

He and other party leaders were addressing a news conference on the first day of a meeting of party leaders of the European Democratic Union, a group of Conservative and Christian Democratic parties, which is headed by Herr Alois Mock, chairman of the Austrian People's Party.

Earlier, Mr Carl Bildt, who heads the Swedish opposition Conservatives, complained about the French curbs on travel from Scandinavian countries.

"If France were intimidated into changing its policies... then we should all soon be forced to follow this example,"

Mr Tebbit said. The two-day meeting at Vienna's Hofburg Congress Centre was completely overshadowed by the recent wave of terrorist attacks in France. It was attended by Chancellor Kohl of West Germany, Mr Paul Schluter, the Danish Prime Minister, and Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister of Turkey.

Herr Mock said the session was expected to endorse a set of proposals to fight international terrorism in a resolution to be adopted on Sunday.

Controls essential: Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament yesterday called on all EEC governments to bring in visa requirements for visitors from non-Common Market countries.

In a speech to a conference on international and European Policy in Vienna, Sir Henry said strict visa controls were essential in the fight against terrorism.

MADRID: The Spanish Government has lifted an order which barred North Africans travelling to France without visas from entering Spain, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said the order was cancelled after Paris made clear that citizens of those countries did not require visas stamped in their passports.

Scientology reels after \$30m case

From Ivor Davis
Los Angeles

In what Church of Scientology leaders called a blow that could destroy its organization, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge has upheld a jury's \$30 million (\$20.4 million) damages award to a former member who claimed the religious cult destroyed his life mentally and financially.

Judge Ronald Swearingen on Thursday denied without comment the Church's bid to win a new trial or invalidate the huge award to Mr Larry Wollersheim, who was granted \$5 million compensatory and \$25 million punitive damages after a long and bitter trial that ended in July.

Since the award, the Church's lawyers have argued in court that its religious beliefs were unconstitutionally placed on trial and that the big award reflected the jury's prejudice and passion.

Scientologists have organized non-stop candle vigils outside the courthouse in Los Angeles and launched a press campaign to bring their efforts to public attention.

At a press conference last night, the Church's lawyer, Mr Earle Cooley, called the judge's decision "the most outrageous evasion of justice responsibility ever seen in this country."

He said the Church could be forced to post the \$60 million bond to prevent Mr Wollersheim from receiving any money while the case is on appeal and that the amount would severely strain the Church's net worth of \$18 million.

He would also seek a new trial even if it meant going to the US Supreme Court.

The Church of Scientology and its affiliates have been the target of a wave of lawsuits by ex-members in recent years.

Mr Wollersheim sued it in 1980 after 11 years in the organization, during which he was a travelling spokesman, was an excellent benefits course.

He had claimed that he was subjected to "psychological manipulations" — "a robbery of his judgment through a Scientology practice known as auditing in which an individual is asked to reveal intimate details of his life while his responses are monitored on a lie detector device.

Victim of Soviet labour camps in Britain

Prisoner of conscience walks free

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Nikolai Baranov's first impulse on arrival in Britain, after 23 years in Soviet labour camps and psychiatric hospitals where he was subjected to tranquilizing injections, was to go for long, lonely walks in the "clean, fresh air" of Staffordshire.

At a press conference at Amnesty International's international secretariat in London yesterday, Mr Baranov, aged 49, a former Moscow communist worker, related his experiences — over 17 years of them in Soviet "special psychiatric hospitals" — which followed his arrest in 1963 for distributing pamphlets for a clandestine Russian nationalist organization and for seeking to emigrate.

Mr Baranov arrived in Britain on August 3 with his twin sister, Elena Baranov, and her son, after concerted efforts by Amnesty International over the past seven years and an appeal by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, when he visited the Soviet Union last year.

For the past six weeks, Mr Baranov and his only two surviving relatives have been living with a north Staffordshire family, part of an Am-



Mr Nikolai Baranov and his sister Elena yesterday at the Amnesty International press conference in London.

nesty case worker group which wrote 10,000 letters on his behalf during his ordeal.

After he was caught passing a leaflet for his organization, The Path, which he said followed the precepts of "Christian democracy", Mr Baranov spent five years in a labour camp in Mordovskaya west of Moscow which he described as "a paradise on Earth" compared with the special psychiatric hospitals designed for treatment of the "criminally insane".

He was arrested again after he had dropped anti-Soviet pamphlets in the Swedish Embassy's letterbox.

Doctors at the Serbsky Central Institute for Forensic Psychiatry declared him "unaccountable for his actions" and he was despatched to a

variety of institutions in Tashkent, hundreds of miles from his family.

The drugs with which he was injected did not cause him to hallucinate, but left him in a state of continual physical pain.

"The worst punishment is the needle with the injection," he said. "I was prepared to suffer all sorts of other punishments."

In July, the drug infusions abruptly stopped and later he was told he would be allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

On August 3, two KGB officers drove him to Leningrad Airport and he boarded a plane to find his sister and nephew waiting for him.

Mr Baranov's immediate priority is to learn English, a trade and then find employment.

Gibraltar airport talks end

Senior British and Spanish officials ended yesterday a day-and-a-half of talks reviewing possible future joint use of Gibraltar's airport and other co-operation measures without announcing any decisions.

Both sides afterwards showed maximum discretion about the talks between Mr David Ratford, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and Señor Jesus Ezquerria, his Spanish counterpart.

British officials were yesterday discouraging the impression that a formula for joint use of Gibraltar's airport would be announced later by the two countries' foreign ministers when they meet, as a political breakthrough.

A further meeting is now likely at a senior level before Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez hold their annual meeting.

Papandreou promise to revive earthquake town

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, yesterday promised the people of Kalamata interest-free loans and grants to help them rebuild or repair their homes devastated by the earthquakes which killed 20 people a week ago.

He told an outdoor gathering of the town's civic leaders: "Your grief has become a cause for national mourning. I promise that Kalamata will soon regain its vitality."

Official estimates of the damage in this port town of 42,000 inhabitants revealed that two-thirds of its 21,000 private buildings were no longer habitable.

Rubik launches new Magic

Budapest (Reuters) — For those whose wrists and patience survived the Rubik Cube, a fiendish new challenge is now available — Rubik's Magic.

Mr Erno Rubik, the Hungarian mathematician, designer and inventor, launched Magic at the Budapest Trade Fair yesterday, hoping to sweep the world with another puzzle craze.

Like the Cube, the challenge of Magic is to manipulate shapes from chaos into a pattern. Both employ an ingenious and secret mechanism that defies immediate understanding.

Magic consists of eight flat sections joined by mysteriously hinges of plastic filament which, instead of having just one angle, have 45. The aim is to form a pattern of interlocking rings from the confusion of brightly-coloured arcs on the sections.

The puzzle can be bent into unexpected three-dimensional shapes as the parts are twisted and broken from each other.

"It's the same idea as the Cube. Part basic puzzle, part provocation to experiment, to see what you can make of it," Mr Rubik said. He said a creation of order out of confusion



The new Rubik's Magic puzzle, left, and its inventor, Mr Erno Rubik, the man who gave the world Rubik's Cube

was not the only important element of the puzzle. "When you are working to find a solution you create different kinds of three-dimensional forms," he said.

The inventor, aged 42, teaches at Budapest's Academy of Design and Crafts.

Although Magic has a more elaborate appearance than the Cube, which sold in millions, Mr Rubik says it still depends on a simple idea.

Both puzzles sprang from Mr Rubik's background of studying sculpture, architecture and design, as well as a special talent for mathematical manipulation. He has learned hard business lessons from his experiences with the Cube, with pirate companies cashing in on the device.

The new puzzle has been patented in 40 countries and distributed to marketing points in the United States and Europe ready for sale next month. The US firm licensed to market the Cube was surprised by its extraordinary success in 1980 and 1981 and unable to meet the demand.

The new puzzle is being made in the Chinese city of Canton, with a 2,000-strong work force set up this year.

US in second place at bridge contest

From A Bridge Correspondent, Miami

The USA yesterday took second place in the competition for the fourth semi-final place in the World Knockout Bridge Team Championships.

Of the eight teams which competed in a mini-knockout to determine the fourth place in the semi-final, three were from Europe.

Three teams had already qualified by winning their respective pools. Surprisingly, the mini-knockout final was contested by two non-American teams — Bjoro Falenius, Magnus Lindqvist, Mats Nilsson and Anders Wirgen of Sweden and Zia Mahmood, Jan-E-Adam-Fazli, Nissar Ahmed, Nishat Abidi of Pakistan.

Italian firms to bid for Star Wars contracts

Italy has signed an agreement which will enable Italian firms to bid for American Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) research programme contracts, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

The Italian Government says this does not mean it gives political or military support to the controversial Star Wars, or SDI, programme.

Italy is the fourth US ally to compete for SDI research contracts. Britain, West Germany and Israel joined earlier.

"We expect Italian participation in SDI research will contribute significantly, helping to increase the programme's effectiveness, reduce its overall cost, and accelerate its schedule," the Pentagon said.

It said details of the agreement were classified and would not be published. But the agreement would provide a comprehensive basis for participation of Italian industry in SDI research.

American and Italian officials declined to estimate how much money Italian firms might stand to gain in SDI contracts. Each Italian proposal would be assessed on its technical merits.

The Italian Government said earlier this week that the agreement was drawn up on the same lines as those already signed by Britain, West Germany and Israel. Japan said this month it was also negotiating an agreement for the participation of its firms in SDI research.

Black miners to vote on pay strike as feelings run high over fatal fire

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa's most important industry comes at a time when feelings are already running high among black miners because of the underground fire at the Kinross Gold Mine last Tuesday in which 177 people died, all but five of them black.

The NUM announced yesterday that it intends to bring mining experts from Britain and West Germany to South Africa to assist in the judicial inquiry into the disaster. It said it was also looking at the possibility of a prosecution of the owner of the Kinross mine, for criminal negligence.

The decision was announced after the NUM reached a deadlock yesterday morning in wage negotiations with the Chamber of Mines, which represents the main mining houses.

The NUM said the Chamber had rejected arbitration and had remained "intransigent to the reasonable demands of the union".

The threat of a strike in

South Africa's most important industry comes at a time when feelings are already running high among black miners because of the underground fire at the Kinross Gold Mine last Tuesday in which 177 people died, all but five of them black.

Meanwhile, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr

"Pik" Botha, has separately invited Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, and "the best German experts" to come to South Africa to look at safety standards here, of which they were "apparently not aware".

This was in response to a suggestion by Herr Genscher that deep-level mining experts from other countries might be able to suggest improvements.

The NUM has been in dispute with the Chamber of Mines since July 1, when the mining houses unilaterally introduced wage rises ranging between 15 and 19 per cent in response to the union's demand for a 30 per cent increase across-the-board.

In negotiations last Monday, the two sides came slightly closer, with the NUM reducing its demand to 26 per cent, and the chamber raising its offer by a percentage point or so. The Kinross tragedy may have hardened attitudes on the union side.

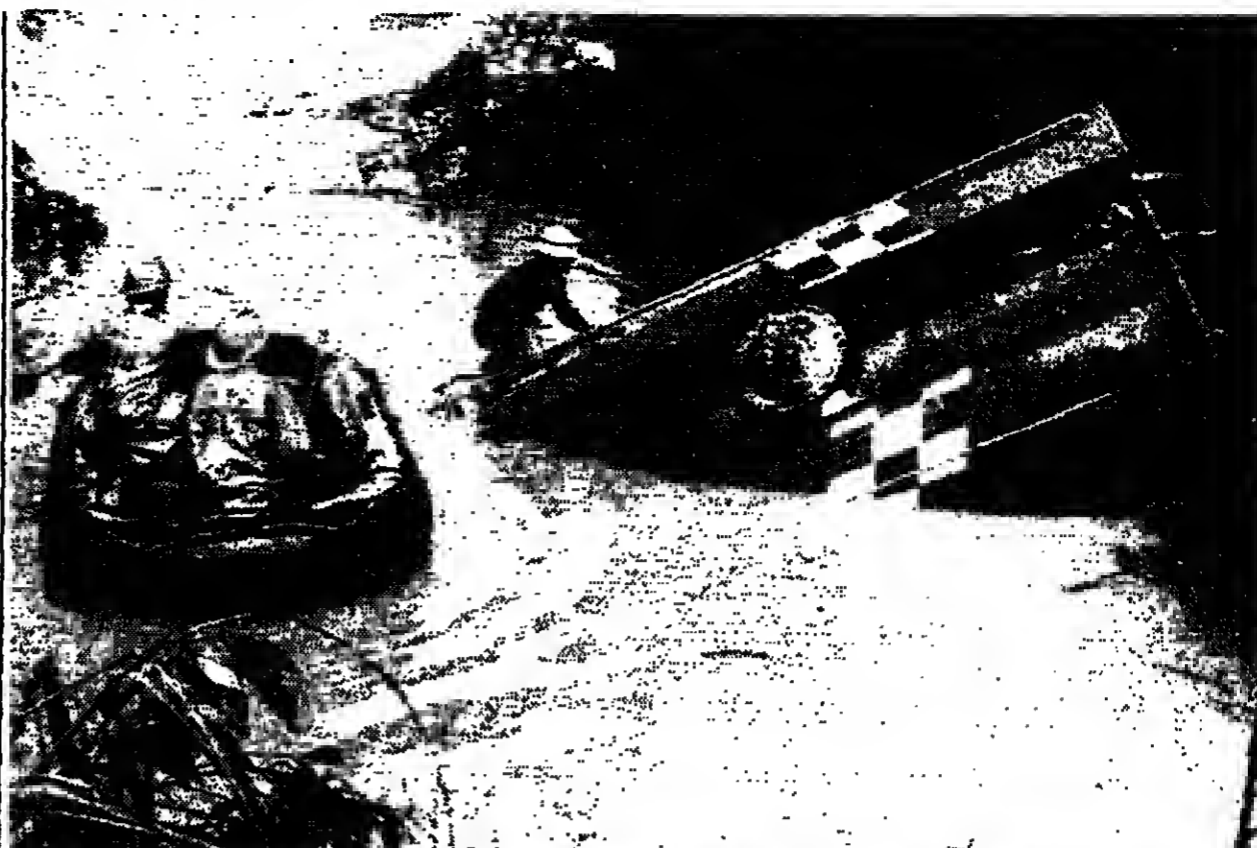
Gencor, the Afrikaner-dominated mining company which owns Kinross, admitted yesterday that it did not know whether a polyurethane anti-corrosion foam which is thought to have been a factor in the disaster had ever been tested for toxicity before being used in the mine.

At a press conference in Johannesburg, Mr Carl Netscher, senior director of Gencor's mining division, gave an assurance that the foam would be removed immediately from all the company's mines. Other executives said they did not think it was widely used.

Mr Netscher said, however, that the company was not prepared to remove PVC-sheathed cables and other flammable substances until the findings of the official inquiry into the disaster were known. That could take up to a year.

Provisional indications are that poisonous fumes from burning cables and other materials, and from the polyurethane foam may have caused the deaths.

The executive chairman of Gencor, Mr Derek Keys, told the press conference that the company was setting up an independent trust fund, endowed with an initial sum of two million rands (£600,000) to supplement the existing forms of compensation for bereaved families.



A petrol lorry lying partly submerged in a Taiwan river after its driver lost control in typhoon winds which reached 110 miles an hour.

It left floods in its wake, and blew loose the cables of four cargo ships which drifted for 10 hours in Kaohsiung harbour, about 200 miles south of Taipei.

The two main airports, Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek and the international airport in Kaohsiung, reopened yesterday after being closed for 12 hours.

Typhoon Abby lashed the country from Wednesday night until yesterday and resulted in six deaths, the lorry driver among them (AP reports from Taipei).

The Central Weather Bureau said that Abby weakened at around midday yesterday, when the eye of the storm crossed central Taiwan and its winds dropped.

Abby is the second big storm to hit Taiwan this year. Typhoon Wayne swept through last month, leaving 52 dead and damage estimated at £270 million.

Japan adds visas ban to sanctions

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan is to introduce sanctions against South Africa similar to those of the EEC but with one significant addition.

As well as banning imports of pig-iron and steel, Japan will also decline to issue visas for South African tourists and discourage Japanese tourists from going there. While continuing the ban on air links between the two countries, it will also stop government officials from travelling on South African Airways (SAA).

The Government cannot do anything in the short-term about the SAA office in Tokyo except decline to renew visas of South African staff. The office books flights on SAA which originate from Taipei.

Japan, whose nationals are "honorary whites" in South Africa, already maintains relations with Pretoria at consular rather than full diplomatic level.

It restricts investment and finance, limits sporting, cultural and educational contacts, forbids the import of arms and the export of computers to agencies enforcing apartheid and urges its citizens not to buy Kruggerands.

The Japanese decided not to ban the import of either coal or iron ore because of their importance to home industry and the fear that banning them would adversely affect the lives of black miners.

A Foreign Ministry official said it was not constructive to destroy the Pretoria economy, but the Government recognizes that "some stronger measures are necessary to convey our position to the South African Government".

The Ministry emphasized that the measures are "not everlasting" and the Government is ready to lift them when Pretoria clearly indicates that it is going to abolish apartheid.

Japan believes the ban on iron and steel is a substantial measure since the country imports some 18 per cent of South African exports, last year worth \$280 million (£136 million), and is the second largest customer.

The ban, however, does not apply to existing contracts and will take a little time to enforce. Japanese coal imports from South Africa were worth \$410 million and iron ore \$180 million in 1985.

Last year Japan was host to 4,000 South Africans, of whom 25 per cent were on tourist visas and would no longer get in under the new regulations. South Africa received 3,800 Japanese.

Mr Masaharu Gotoda, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, called for the release of the African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, and the removal of bans on anti-apartheid organizations.

Africa sees quick and easy solution

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

African countries are convinced that economic sanctions will force the departure of white minority rule in South Africa and that they will do so quickly and with relative ease. For them, beyond the image of a collapsed apartheid regime lies a frontline free from South Africa's harsh brand of economic benevolence and military impunity.

This African perception is the motivation behind the sanctions campaign, which has now shifted to the United Nations, where the General Assembly is in the midst of a four-day debate on Namibia, likely to wind up today with calls for a total blockade meant to place particular pressure on Brian.

Although the African approach to sanctions is far from monolithic, one common scenario emerges from talks with African diplomats and political analysts who believe South Africa's resilience to broad sanctions will be transitory at best, an embargo's impact provoking the sought-after change almost immediately.

In order to achieve the optimum effect, they believe, sanctions must at least hold out the promise of being all-encompassing. While critical of the European Community package as being too lukewarm, the predominant African view is that the EEC measures mark a watershed since they appear to have delivered a psychological blow and convinced South Africans that sanctions from tradi-

tional allies are inevitable. By the same token the West should not expect the pressure to diminish, since Africans believe the momentum must be grasped and fuelled until the goals are met.

Beyond the moral and emotive aspects of the sanctions campaign, the African-constructed scenario of a Pretoria choked by a web of economic penalties helps to explain why a majority of the African frontline states whose economies are intertwined with South Africa's seem so committed to punitive measures and have accepted the prospect of debilitating counter-measures from Pretoria with such stoic resignation.

According to an independent study, South Africa's economic and military coercion of its neighbours is costing the black-ruled states in excess of \$10 billion (£6.8 million). The frontline countries believe they have a choice of suffering briefly, albeit intensely, from South Africa's wrath in the form of counter-measures or suffering interminably from its dominance.

While Africans have pressed the West for comprehensive sanctions for the past 20 years, the decibel level of their demands reached a new intensity after two recent trends in South Africa which helped to crystallize African thinking and illuminate the practical advantages of bringing to an end a system which they abhor.

African diplomats point to the initiatives taken by South African businessmen to work out the terms of reference for a dialogue between black leaders and the Botha Government after last year's Western freeze on new loans.

Should South Africa be continue to be squeezed, they believe the business community will not tolerate a seige economy but force the Government into negotiations with the African National Congress (ANC) leading to a transfer of power along the Rhodesian model.

The past year has also seen Pretoria's attempt to forge a "pax Africana" founder. The cornerstone of its regional diplomatic ambitions, the Nkomat accord with Mozambique, failed in the view of African analysts because South Africa continued its support of the Renamo insurgency movement operating against the Government of President Machel, having decided it could not allow Mozambique to flourish for fear that it would ease its hold.

For almost a two-year period of a developing rapprochement between South Africa and its neighbours, the African call for sanctions was muted. But Pretoria's decision to replace the hand of friendship with an iron fist, diplomats say, convinced the frontline states once and for all that their economic and political stability is inherently tied with an end to white minority rule.

Iraq and Iran claim victories

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Baghdad (AP) - Iraq claimed its forces crushed an Iranian offensive in the central sector of the Gulf war yesterday, killing 1,400 soldiers and wounding 3,000 others, the state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

It was the first Iraqi report of heavy fighting in the central sector of the 733-mile front since Tuesday, when Iran announced advances in the region west of the Iranian border town of Mehran.

INA said the Iranians attacked a height in the region and that Iraqi forces were able to "wipe out 1,400 of the attacking forces and inflict injuries on about 3,000 Iraqis while the rest fled".

The situation settled decisively and completely in favor of Iraqi forces at 11am yesterday it said. Iraqi forces "are exercising their control, with full force, on all the border hills," the agency said.

The Iraqis have been saying since Tuesday that minor clashes were occurring between an Iraqi "ambush group" and Iranian infantry companies in the central sector.

Israelis and Lebanon militia in drive to capture gunmen

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The battles also demonstrated that the guerrillas are trying to sever the corridor of territory held by the SLA and running from the Israeli occupation zone up to the Christian mountain town of Jezzine.

The Israelis are unlikely to allow that to happen; but to prevent it they will be forced to send their soldiers north of the occupied area - as they did yesterday - and thus risk suffering the sort of casualties which many Israelis feel are unacceptable in the Lebanon war. The Lebanese resistance movement, which is helped by Sunni as well as by Shia Muslim fundamentalists, has long tried to tempt the Israelis into just such a renewed involvement.

Even as the Israelis were hunting for the SLA's attackers yesterday, the French paratroop contingent of the United Nations force further south was redeploying to new positions which will so the UN hopes - prevent further attacks being made against them by the Hezbollah. The French left their northernmost outpost at dawn and handed it over to soldiers from the UN's Nepalese battalion.

The Syrian Army meanwhile has announced that it intends to prevent any further deterioration in security in west Beirut. Brigadier-General Ghazi Kenaan, the head of Syrian Army intelligence in Lebanon, told a news conference in the northern city of Tripoli that "kidnappers and bank robbers will be dealt with firmly".

The abduction of two more Americans in west Beirut last week and a series of spectacular bank robberies by gunmen who are, like the rest of the population, feeling the collapse of the Lebanese pound, has been deeply embarrassing to the Syrians who sent their troops into the Muslim sector of the city in July for the express purpose of restoring law and order.

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Tokyo in £12.8bn boost for economy

From David Watts, Tokyo

Japan has introduced a package of measures worth a record 3,600 billion yen (about £12.8 billion) to stimulate the domestic economy, but it is likely to have little impact on imports.

The Government hopes that the package will boost the flagging economy to 4 per cent growth for the year.

In August Japan had a \$1.57 billion (£1.05 billion) surplus with the EEC countries and a \$4.42 billion surplus with the US. The overall surplus was \$7.5 billion for the month, compared with \$3.49 billion for the same period last year.

The measures, the third package this year, come after months of urging from abroad that the Japanese economy be stimulated in the hope that more imports will be sucked in. But only additional capital expenditure by the international telephone service KDD, which has recently shown greater willingness to purchase from abroad, is likely to involve imports.

Three thousand billion yen of the package will be local and national government expenditures, with the balance coming from the private sector. By increasing the amount available for mortgages from the government housing loan corporation, the Government expects to see an extra 30,000 housing units built this year. It will also spend an extra 1,400 billion yen on road improvements.

Other measures are to help small industries hit by the rising yen to find new markets and secure employment in those industries, and to ensure that the benefits of the stronger currency are passed on to the consumer.

TOKEYO: Three Japanese companies have joined a US company in a feasibility study on a new satellite telecommunications service in Japan (AFP reports).

The Tokyo-based company formed for the joint venture, Japan Satellite Communications Network Planning Corporation, hopes to prepare the way for a high-speed data transmission service linking corporate clients by way of small Earth satellite stations similar to the very small aperture terminals of the US. It would also provide a circuit-leasing service.

Afghan siege forces united rebel attacks

Nicosia (AP) - Nine Afghan rebel groups have agreed to step up attacks against government forces and the Soviet Army in western Afghanistan to ease pressure on several hundred guerrillas besieged by 20,000 troops, the Iranian news agency Irna reported yesterday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the groups met on Thursday at Mashhad in Iran, near the border with Afghanistan.

One killed in Bangladesh student riots

Dhaka - One person was killed and more than 100 others were wounded when border guards were called to quell riots between university students and transport workers in northern Bangladesh on Thursday (Ahmed Fazl writes).

The violence, which erupted after a group of workers attacked a woman student, forced the closure of the university in Rajshahi Town, about 240 miles from Dhaka.

Tamils blame police gunfire for deaths

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The Citizen's Committee of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday said that 11 civilians died and 30 others were missing after police drove through the town killing indiscriminately.

It said the police also set fire to shops while Air Force planes strafed areas of the town.

The missing include 23 people who had watched a film at the Rajeswary Theatre and who are alleged to have been held by a police task force. The Citizen's Committee has sent a telegram to President Jayewardene asking for an immediate official inquiry.

The incidents occurred after a car bomb exploded on Thursday near a bus stand. The Citizen's Committee said the blast killed only two civilians; 11 others whose bodies were taken to a mortuary died of bullet wounds.

The Government confirmed that 13 people died, but claimed three were burned in a bus which caught fire as a result of the explosion, one was electrocuted when a high tension wire fell on him while the others waiting at the bus stop died as a result of the blast.

But a press release yesterday said "terrorists had fired" at a Jeep carrying seven policemen who were injured by the car bomb explosion back to their camp.

"It is believed some civilians might have been seriously injured or dead as a result of the terrorist fire," it said.

The Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathududali, said the explosives had been detonated by remote control.

He said that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most hardcore of the five principal extremist groups, appeared to be responsible for the attack.

Earlier this week, he toured Batticaloa and told security forces that winning the hearts and minds of the Tamil civilians was an important aspect of their work.

Singaporeans targets of a state Cupid

Singapore (Reuters) - Singapore's state matchmakers said yesterday they were planning a campaign to encourage thousands of secondary-school graduates to marry.

Officials at the Government's one-year-old Social Development Section (SDS), said they would invite the young people to meet members of the opposite sex at social events in 100 clubs all over the island.

The SDS has run a number of small gatherings, but the director, Miss Ng-Chen Chai, said that virtually all Singaporean parliamentary constituencies would organize discos, dancing classes, fishing trips and weekend outings for single people aged between 20 and 30.

She expects some 20,000 to be attracted to the scheme by next June.

Chirac setback on television privatization

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The Constitutional Council, France's highest authority on constitutional matters, has annulled two articles of the Government's broadcasting Bill which was pushed through Parliament in August by means of the guillotine, which cuts short debate.

The two articles concern the rules governing the privatization of France's main state television channel, TF1, and the re-allocation of two existing private channels.

The council is worried that the Bill does not guarantee the pluralism of broadcasting and guard against takeovers by large press groups.

Its objections mean that a new Bill will have to be passed through Parliament this autumn to clarify this point.

Top Bulgarians linked to coins fraud

By Roger Boyes, East European Correspondent

A marathon trial in Bulgaria has uncovered a smuggling and counterfeiting racket which diverted gold and silver pieces from one of the world's most valuable coin collections and sold them to private dealers in the West.

Although the court proceedings which ended last week have carefully avoided naming names, it is clear that highly-placed members of the Bulgarian establishment were involved in the fraud.

Bulgaria is a veritable goldmine for numismatists with dozens of archaeological finds from the 14th century and earlier yielding thousands of unusually well preserved coins and seals.

Most of them have been housed in the archaeological museum of Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second largest city. But for the

past decade the coins have been disappearing. About 12,000 ancient gold, silver and copper coins are missing from the inventory, including a unique exhibit - a silver seal of Tsar Ivan Alexander (1331-1371).

When a Western expert wanted to inspect gold coins found in an archaeological dig in the village of Malko Topolovo he realized that they had been replaced by worthless lead flakes.

For the past six years the museum director, Mr Christo Ivan Dzambalov, has been on trial. His explanation was that the coins were "borrowed" by various important, but unnamed people.

Most of them signed receipts but very low values were placed on the coins. One receipt, for example, is for 432 coins valued at only 33,725 leva (about £11,000) which is only a small fraction of the true value.

The Tsar's seal, worth several thousands of pounds, was signed out for 200 leva, or 267. Evidently the signers conveniently lost the borrowed coins and netted a huge profit.

Who waylaid the coins? There is some speculation that the borrowers were friends of the late Mrs Ludmilla Zhivkova, the daughter of Bulgarian leader, Mr Todor Zhivkov. For most of the period of the fraud she was in charge of Bulgarian culture, a very active member of the Politburo and the Culture Minister.

She thus carries some of the political responsibility for the fraud even if she did not personally profit from it.

It used to be a common practice in Eastern Europe to borrow pieces of furniture or paintings from museum store-rooms and treat them as one's own property. Many of those associated with Mrs Zhivkova - who died mysteriously

in 1981 at the age of 39 - were famous for their high living, including shopping trips to Vienna and Paris.

The children of Politburo members have been known to smuggle valuable art works from Bulgaria into Turkey to finance their trips to the West.

Mr Dzambalov, however, has been extremely discreet throughout his six-year trial. The receipts he has shown in his defence have been mainly signed by people now dead and the charges against him have been whittled down to "wastefulness" and "mismanagement of a state messian".

Due to lack of evidence, the judges have decided not to put him in jail, but to fine him about 112,000 leva (£37,500). That is about 40 years average wages, or the market value of about 10 of the missing coins. The mild sentence suggests that he is reaping the reward of his discretion.



A clerk of court drawing a colour-coded marble from a "bingo" container during a trial in Manila yesterday to pick a three-judge panel. The panel will retry 26 people charged with killing Mr Benigno Aquino in 1983.

Judge Conrado Molina, who refused to handle the original trial because of his family ties with one of the accused, was appointed chairman of the three-man team. Two of his nieces are married to children of one of the defendants.

The retrial was ordered last week by the Supreme Court, which said last December's acquittal of the former Armed Forces chief, General Fabian Ver, 24 other soldiers and a civilian was a "sham".

WHAT TO DO IF INTEREST ON YOUR SAVINGS SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED BOTTOM. SEE PAGE 33

SPORTS DIARY

Simon Barnes

Send for Botham

Botham and Richards have already signed for another club. Yes, they have agreed terms with Humber...

Stylized

Meanwhile I learn from a poll commissioned by Polaroid that Botham is the 27th most stylish person in Britain...

Flat broke

How rich and glamorous is the world of racing. Take the glittering line-up for the Bewley Stakes...



Demonballs

An attempt on the century-old record for throwing a cricket ball failed this week when Don Topley of Essex managed only a mere 332ft 1/2in...

Swing low

Why should the devil have all the best games? Northwood Hills Evangelical church in north London converted itself into an indoor golf driving range...

High, wide and Hanson

John Bell, City Editor, on the tycoon for whom takeovers are a way of life

For a man whose main claim to fame was as actress Audrey Hepburn's fiancé, James, now Lord, Hanson has come a long way. The 6ft 4in Yorkshireman once made headlines as a debt-ridden playboy...

Something that he has learned to do with astonishing success. Starting with only £150,000 of his family's money, made out of road haulage...

facturing, businesses like bricks, batteries and engineering products. But towards the end of the 1970s the takeovers, and sales became bigger and more frequent...

lion - superb going by City standards. With its balance sheet immensely strengthened by all these disposals, there is hardly a business in the UK which Hanson could not afford to buy...

The official Soviet cultural weekly Sovetskaya Kultura has published excerpts from a new play which is expected to be performed by groups all over the Soviet Union...

What is unusual about the published excerpts of the play (which may not be true when the complete version becomes available) is the absence of the exaggerated heroic tone common to many Soviet press reports of the disaster...

Chernobyl - which in Russian means a variety of plant akin to wormwood - circulated widely in the Soviet Union after the accident...

Against the conventions that have been broken, however, many have been upheld. The uneducated people, the peasant woman, the general's driver and the power station worker are sympathetically drawn and show most common sense after the accident...

Inquest on Chernobyl

Scene: The experimental section of the Institute of Radiation Safety. A large reception area with a number of numbered cubicles behind...



all your fault, you physicists. You think atomic energy is the future of civilization... bombs, reactors, power stations... you've invented them all...

why they didn't, not quizzing us. The problem was we were always in a hurry; we pledged to have the reactor finished three months early...

not have protective clothing? Not one of them. According to the regulations everyone at the fire station must be provided with it...

When the SDP was launched I had much sympathy for it and was almost tempted to support it. Most of its founders were old friends who shared my view that the Labour Party in the years to come was irretrievably lost...

Michael Kinsley

A cynic's guide to passing exams

Each year more than a million American high school students take a half-day exam called the scholastic aptitude test (SAT). The test is used for admission to university...

"distractors" - answers that look right, but aren't. For mechanical reasons, the questions in each section of the test start out "easy" and get "hard". The trick, therefore, is to look for the obvious answer and choose it if the question is near the beginning of the section...

Until 1979, ETS was all-powerful. Its questions, answers, and score calculations were beyond challenge. In that year, New York State passed a so-called "truth-in-testing" law, giving outsiders access to ETS's questions and allegedly correct answers...

Cracking the System is subversive on both the practical and the intellectual levels. As a practical matter, the secrets available for \$9.95 in this book will wreck havoc with the test results...

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Woodrow Wyatt

Calling up an SDP winner

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Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Kinsley's guide to exams



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

DISASTER IN THE AIR

When the British Airways 737 jet crashed last August at Manchester, eventually taking the lives of 53 passengers and two stewardesses...

that three hydrants contained neither water nor foam. According to medical evidence, however, that did not contribute to the loss of life...

door is opened slowly and carefully, fails if the door is opened hastily. Since the plane was on fire, haste was the order of the day and door jammed.

FAIR EXCHANGE?

Most of Britain shares two preconceptions about the City of London. One is that finance pulls the strings of industry rather than serving it.

disbanded. Five weeks before the new more competitive trading system starts in the "big bang", the Exchange is almost unrecognizable.

from New York, Zurich or Tokyo. It is an imaginative and far-sighted concept. But where does it leave the individual?

FOURTH LEADER

A Spanish tax inspector, it is reported, boarded a Mediterranean cruise ship incognito, to check on behalf of the fiscal authorities...

trouserless, a sadder and a wiser man, he rose the morning morn.

that the money he paid for them was incurred wholly, necessarily and exclusively in the pursuit of his official duties.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prison sentences for rugby violence

From Mr Edward Grayson. Because the prosecution process in this country has never been concerned directly with sentencing of offenders...

On hostile terms with the police

From Mr D. C. T. Frewer. Sir, Your leader on the St Paul's riot (September 13) criticised those who regard the arrival of police in their local community...

Daniloff affair

From Ms Lesley Chamberlain. Sir, The US compromised its stronger political position over the Zakharov-Daniloff affair to ensure that an individual deeply estranged by his detention without trial was transferred from a Soviet prison...

BBC building plan

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Sir, There is growing interest, curiosity and concern about the BBC's plans for the White City.

Battle of Britain

From Lord Dowding. Sir, I read with great interest and welcome, of course, today's letters from Dr Brian Porter and Air Commodore Chisholm, and have some grounds for hope that a suitable permanent memorial will one day soon be forthcoming.

Pollution processes

From Professor P. C. G. Isaac. Sir, I can understand the Minister of the Environment, wishing to publicize the Government's decision to fit scrubbers to three power-stations in Britain.

Reform of Unesco

From the Director of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Sir, As an association which is genuinely concerned to see Unesco become a more streamlined, a more democratic and a less bureaucratic organisation...

On hostile terms with the police

From Mr D. C. T. Frewer. Sir, Your leader on the St Paul's riot (September 13) criticised those who regard the arrival of police in their local community...

Hungry for Christ

From Mrs Nerissa Jones. Sir, There is much more fundamental agreement between the Bishops of Birmingham and Durham than the title "Why Durham is wrong" (article, September 13) would suggest.

In the belfry?

From Dr Richard Seddon. Sir, Perhaps Mr Porter (September 10), when he seeks advice on how to install a stuffed owl into the church for which he cares in order to scare away the bats...

Training ordinands

From the Reverend P. H. Vaughan. Sir, Clifford Longley's article (September 1) on the inadequacies of the Church of England's structures for training its ordinands failed to notice that at least a quarter of the Church's ordinands do not train in residential colleges at all.

ON THIS DAY

SEPTEMBER 20 1935

The "worthy hope" expressed below, in the final sentence, was frustrated by the Second World War, but 50 years on, according to the Automobile Association, much of the road is motorway. The distance from London to Constantinople is about 1,900 miles, and the usual route is through Germany and Austria, thence via Belgrade and Sofia.

Motoring to Constantinople

A new line is being drawn across Europe, beginning in London and ending at the Golden Horn. For the first nine miles or so it is well defined. There is no mistaking the London-Dover road, or its continuation from Calais to Cologne...

A few years ago we lived in Tokyo where the police have all sorts of sophisticated equipment and their riot squads are menacingly efficient but where they put great emphasis on the "Koban" - small police boxes manned at all times by one or two policemen with a bicycle - which are located in every small ward.

It is expected that the last link of the road will have been made, the last dist-bath abolished, by 1988. A motorist would then be able to leave London with one set of Customs papers and, travelling only by main road, reach Constantinople (or, heading at Budapest, Bucharest and the Black Sea) in five or six days.

The blunt answer to both questions is "No". The higher priority given to food is on the contrary a sign of a Church becoming more aware of how an incarnational belief hollows the total human individual here on earth.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, it is illegal for anyone without a license intentionally to kill, injure, handle, disturb, photograph or in any way to interfere with roosting bats.

These harmless little creatures are not only under threat of extinction; they also devour on the wing hundreds of tons of insect pests that bite and sting humans and animals and spread disease to livestock and plants.

Looking askance. From Mr R. N. Pittman. Sir, The guard's announcing that "the approaching station is Durham" (letter, September 17) has echoes of Sam Goldwyn standing at the liner's rail and wishing his voyage to those on the quayside being him off.

Yours faithfully, MALCOLM HARTER, Director, United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 3 Whitehall Court, SW1, September 16

THE ARTS

Television

Until last night, none of the British television stations could claim superiority over the others as an outlet for faintly blue films. But by a single bold manoeuvre, Channel 4 has now achieved the market leadership in this particular field.

The company has introduced a small white triangle, heralded in red, which will appear in the top-left corner of the screen when it is showing a film which "might offend some viewers". This triangle, also known as a "warning" or "screen warning symbol", is something like coming out of the Highway Code.

What the triangle means, however, is that Channel 4 will feel able to show films which contain violent and sexual scenes of a more extreme sort than have appeared hitherto. Mr. Jeremy Isaacs, the company's chief executive, comments: "Viewers are capable of making informed choices themselves about what they watch. This symbol will help them choose."

But he has failed to explain, if the principle of choice is the only one to apply, why it is that he does not support the showing of any film on television. He may even be mildly annoyed that the Independent Broadcasting Authority will not allow him to show really explicit movies should they be, in the opinion of Channel 4, of an "acknowledged artistic merit".

In practice, of course, libertarian principles are not the only ones which ought to inform the choice of films for television. However late such films are shown, some children will see them, more than would be the case if the films were only available on video and in cinemas.

Last night's film, *Thelma*, made in 1972 and starring Michel Piccoli, was about a woman being who started to behave like a wild beast. That is a fascinating theme, but if film-makers wish to explore it in a particularly unabashed way, their work should not be broadcast.

In the next few years, such films may start to be broadcast from satellites whether our domestic television companies like it or not, but Mr Isaacs is not under a moral obligation to hasten the process. Quite the reverse.

Andrew Gimson



Julian Barnes: Average at trees, rather good at people but beyond compare with parrots

Julian Barnes's new novel has collected plaudits in plenty this week. He talks to Simon Banner

Word painter's brush with the future

"As a novelist", explains Julian Barnes, "I have to feel like a painter who thinks he can paint the whole world, or at least who makes that a part of his normal ambition. At the end of the run, of course, it might turn out that one is better at trees than at people, or better at people than at buildings perhaps, but at this stage it's dangerous to think I can't do the whole world."

So far, Julian Barnes has proved himself to be, if only average at trees and buildings, rather good at people, and beyond compare at parrots. Translations of his last novel, the intricate, original, much-lauded *Flaubert's Parrot* (or simply *The Parrot*, as he tends fondly to refer to it), line the shelves of his study in quiet testimony to international recognition of that pre-eminence, and a newly arrived Swedish version sits on his desk: "It's 255 pages! The thickest one so far", he muses.

Barnes himself, then, must be happy that his new novel, *Starting at the Sun*, published this week by Jonathan Cape, is his longest yet, while the rest of us will be pleased to discover that it is his most ambitious to date as well. In charting the long life of its central character, Jean Sejanet, the novel ranges from an opening in 1920 to a final section set, rather surprisingly, in 2020. But it is perhaps the memorable

creation of the initially appallingly naive but by 2020, wry and incisive Jean that must be Barnes's major achievement.

"Writing a book from a woman's point of view", says Barnes, "seemed to be a part of the necessary education of being a novelist. I felt that I had to huddle down and do it. In the end I've discovered that I don't find it harder doing women than men. I begin with the active aspect of entering into a character imaginatively, by looking at someone who resembles him or her, or thinking about what this character must look like. Then I just let it flow."

The decision to write not only about a woman, but about a woman who has her allotted three score years and ten, and a few more as well, left Barnes with the dilemma of either giving Jean a Victorian childhood and ending in the present day, or of beginning rather later and ending up in the future. He took the second, far less obvious option.

"It seemed inevitable because I'd also decided that it would be interesting to write something beginning in the period before the Second World War, because it's the period just before I was born, and therefore the period people talked about so much as I was growing up but which I hadn't ever experienced. So I had no choice but to end up in 2020. Anyway, I think the

main point about the future is that it's going to be rather like the present - if we don't blow ourselves up first, that is. Still, I half expect to see those words 'Orwellian vision' in a review."

Born in 1946, Barnes spent his childhood in Leicestershire and then London, before he had what he recalls as several "spectacularly inactive" years in Oxford reading French. "I wasted a lot of time. I certainly didn't think I'd be a writer. It's a bit like being an engine driver for a six-year-old - you'd like to be one, but you don't seriously believe you could be." Instead, he became a lexicographer on the Oxford Dictionary (in the "sports and dirty word department") for another three years, before coming to London to read for the Bar.

He soon discovered that he was much more interested in writing unsigned reviews for five pounds a time for *The Times Literary Supplement* than in the law, and made his way, via a celebratedly waspish column on *The New Review*, to posts on *The New Statesman*, *The Sunday Times*, and later, as *The Observer's* television critic, Barnes's days on *The New Statesman*, when he met and made friends with people who turned out to have been at Oxford at roughly the same time (Craig Raine, James Fenton, and Martin Amis, among others), undoubtedly gained him the

reputation of belonging to a rising and precocious literary brat-pack.

"I'm unable to deny that I'm friendly with other writers of my own age, but the kind of comment I sometimes get, of the 'I hear you're a member of the London literary mafia' variety, is absurd. Martin, I know, likes to play up to it, though, and tells people we've had meetings to discuss who we're going to kneecap next. But what influence do I have? I'm a retired television critic and, for the time being, a full-time novelist."

There are four novels now to his name, each coming out at regular two-yearly intervals since *Metroland* in 1980. It must seem, Barnes supposes, "as if there is a regular production line taking roughly twice as long as Anita Brookner's, but it's really not a bit like that." Production line or not, there is already another Julian Barnes novel under way, yet beyond acknowledging its existence the author is disinclined to go.

Mention of the Booker Prize, for which *Starting at the Sun* is already talked about as a main contender, brings a hunted look to his face. "Ah, yes", he says, "the annual obsession. I don't want to think about it. It's much more important whether one's satisfied with the book oneself and whether it's still in print in ten years' time, and anything on top is a bonus."

Concert Singular pride and passion

LPO/Tennstedt Festival Hall

Beethoven is the sole content of Klaus Tennstedt's first three programmes with the London Philharmonic Orchestra this season, and in this opening concert the emotional gamut was concentrated still further: to the E flat major grandeur of the "Eroica" and the "Emperor". It proved to be an inspired choice.

In both symphony and concerto the orchestra responded to their principal conductor's urgent direction with some fiercely exultant playing. There was a passion and a pride here which augurs well for the rest of the season, if it can be maintained.

Urgency was certainly the foremost quality in Tennstedt's interpretation of the Third Symphony's first movement. He set a crackling pace - an aggressive one-in-a-bar tempo which, in its single-

mindful ferocity, sent the name Karajan fleetingly across the mind - and only really relented to give the development's crunching discords due stridency. That seemed to release pent-up tension; thereafter more flexibility was encouraged in the phrasing.

In the funeral march the pattern ran in reverse. The opening was a subdued whisper, as if in reaction to the first movement's epic struggles. Then, in the figure, Tennstedt suddenly unveiled a new sonic world. The purists might have winced on seeing six horns and four trumpets, and certainly those brass entries had more than a hint of Bruckner about them, but the concept was audacious and the execution exhilarating.

In fact this was a great night for the horns. Their crisp and vibrant trio crowned a splendidly robust Scherzo, and in the finale those great rising-fifth motifs stirred the spirit

like some glorious reveille. But the whole orchestra was buzzing by then.

The violins regained their confidence after a sticky moment near the slow movement's conclusion, and some classic Tennstedt "dynamic bulges" were applied with extravagance.

Maurizio Pollini, the pianist in the Fifth Concerto, was another in rampant, determined mood. The fingerwork was as hard-edged and brilliant as usual (though possibly over-peddalled at times), and his flamboyant tempo fluctuations created their customary drama, not least by posing Tennstedt some minor ensemble problems.

But this interpretation did seem to miss some of the gentler nuances, especially in the woodwind soloists who supplied the most beguiling phrasing.

Richard Morrison

Theatre Off-centre world

The News Paramount City

Gaunt-featured Richard O'Brien is the star of Paul Pulse's new musical, *The News*, which is performed as a piece of loud and smoky cabaret at Paramount City Theatre. Although he is off stage for much of the evening, O'Brien is its presiding evil genius as he plays a celebrity-killing gunman who hits the news wilderness of urban America in a riot of newspaper hype and excitement.

The city's editor, a heavy, swaggering fellow in designer clothes and a handsome moustache, uses the press at his disposal to get the city humming with rumour about this demon in their midst, only to find that the man is dating his daughter, through a lonely hearts advertisement in her father's paper. Inevitably, of course, there is a climactic and fatal showdown.

O'Brien was the begetter of *The Rocky Horror Show* back in 1973, where he invented a trend-setting blend of theatrical rock and camp Hollywood pastiche. Since then, he has suffered a few reversals, and it is easy to be obtuse about the off-beat momentum of his work. He is too intelligent to belong in anyone's genre, and perhaps that is his trouble. He fits well into *The News*, which is partly a smart-talking satire on the brutalizing ethos of the entertainment business, and partly a catch-in-the-throat ballad opera about loneliness and broken dreams.

Taken singly, both of these



Figure from a Gothic nightmare: Richard O'Brien

ideas are dull and over-worked, but combining them, as Pulse does here, strikes me as an invigorating and enjoyable thing to do. *The News* is held together by a mood, and the true link between the showcase musical numbers is thematic rather than narrative. One is entertained not by the slight, nominal plot, but by the show's off-centre view of the world of the news, insolent circus where people are carried along by a crazy surge of adrenalin.

O'Brien does more than anyone to make the form workable, throwing a spectral shadow across the story's candyfloss romance, and conjuring up the stench of those ugly concrete jungles which turn failures and derelicts into junkies and killers. He is a figure from some Gothic nightmare and it is his presence which holds the evening together.

Electric guitars howl and screech, a walloping percussion section rocks the floor, and the singers have strong, virile voices full of nicotine and liquor. Peter Straker's editor is a dapper comman, a glinting-eyed gangster whose smooth bearing might have been learnt at the Cotton Club.

Be Jaye, who plays his love-torn daughter, has big, saucer eyes and a torch singer's sense of style, and occasion. O'Brien keeps those Bram Stoker eyes of his hidden behind evil looking shades, but his sinister energy drenches the evening.

Andrew Rissik

Radio The afternoon's little pleasures

It used to be Afternoon Theatre; these days it's The Afternoon Play, a change that brings it in to line somewhat belatedly with radio drama's right and proper insistence that it is not offering the equivalent of stage plays but an important medium in its own right. Otherwise, dramatic business in the afternoons is much as usual.

This remains the biggest single slot for radio plays, providing three a week. While standards have improved immeasurably since those distant days when *The Listener* had a radio drama critic - 'twas I - *The Afternoon Play* can still touch those pangs of writing, acting and production which used to send me into a weekly stupor. At the same time it can also turn in some of the best things to be heard on radio.

It didn't achieve one of its peaks in the week past, but its three productions included the truthful and exceedingly well written, interestingly blemished with patches of awfulness and the superior middle-of-the-road. The best, the truthful, was Rih Davis's *A Few Kind Words* (Tuesday), and given a well deserved second hearing.

Tommy (Emrys James), a newly retired and widowed Derbyshire miner, comes south to visit his married daughter (Patricia Gallimore). Daughter has been to university, has come up in the world; Dad is stuck fast in the attitudes and values of his community, she has all the escape's resentment of them. The rift between them widens to a gulf and is not bridged until his death, and then, oh so tentatively.

The writing here was excellent, hard and well-shaped, and the author had made fine use of that inimitable radio device that allows you to pop out of dialogue and into the

speakers' private thoughts, then back again.

Denise Robertson (yes, she who led for the Common Woman on a recent *Any Questions?*), squinted as if she had written *The Fleeting East* (Wednesday) in two minds that scarcely knew each other. The play concerned an ambitious middle-class couple who hire an old gardener and then begin to suspect that he has sexual designs on their little daughter. Nothing could be further from the truth and it is the wife's obsessive pursuit of this fantasy that truly threatens the child.

An idea hauntingly conveyed - if somewhat too insistently - by the metaphor of a kestrel hovering, ready to destroy young life. But in between, as if from a different brain, lay tracts of dialogue, sometimes so inept I felt again that old-style Afternoon Theatre super coming on.

Golden Oldies (Thursday), by Roderick Graham, portrayed a Scottish couple celebrating their golden wedding. Family and friends assemble. Surely there will be a crisis! In the event, however, it was all exceedingly low-key. But the dialogue was right and the play possessed a certain gentle charm.

No excuse to slip a bit of music into talkative Radio 4 should ever be missed and *An Invitation to Dancing* (Saturday) took the opportunity with both hands. A 16th-century treatise on French dance by Thoinot Arbeau had been turned by Jeremy Barlow into an eloquent illustrated exposition by the master himself to an inquiring pupil, for which purpose he was able to call on the talents of various musicians he just happened to have in the house.

David Wade

Dance Matthew Hawkins The Place

Matthew Hawkins, a refugee (like Michael Clark) from the Royal Ballet in search of new ways of dancing, found an interesting path to explore in a dance quartet he made a year or so ago to Couperin's *Apotheose de Lully*. That piece serves as the core of a larger production *A Different Set of Muscles*, which he is presenting at The Place this week.

The starting point remains an analogy between the ornate splendours of the baroque art

Dance Modern classics

and the equally ornate artificial attitudes of the post-punk generation. Paralleling this, Hawkins presents a masque of Venus and Adonis with its high-blown speeches and elaborate behaviour punctuated by the arrival of Molly Parkin as a coarse-mannered cupid straight out of Christmas pantos.

Having added John Blow's music to Couperin's, Hawkins throws in for good measure a Paganini Cantabile for violin and piano to accompany part

of his own long solo which serves as prologue, and copious extracts from Glazunov's *Raymonda* to which his newly formed Invited Dancers Group moved happily, dressed in gold or silver paint and not much else.

The earlier piece, *Apothalyse*, forms a final diversissement. Its demanding choreography suffers a little because the replacement dancers are less skilled than the original ones. Perhaps because of that, even Hawkins's own

Dance dancing at that point seems to have become less exact, although his stamina and lightness remain impressive, almost as much as in his earlier 10-minute solo, a marvel of control in slow turns and balances.

His pupils who make up the supporting group are full of life and enthusiasm in some neat burlesques of classical ballet. Mark Erskine-Pullin's costumes are pretty and Mary Lemley's backcloth amusingly suggests an epinec Hawkins gazing at the goddess and her lover.

John Percival

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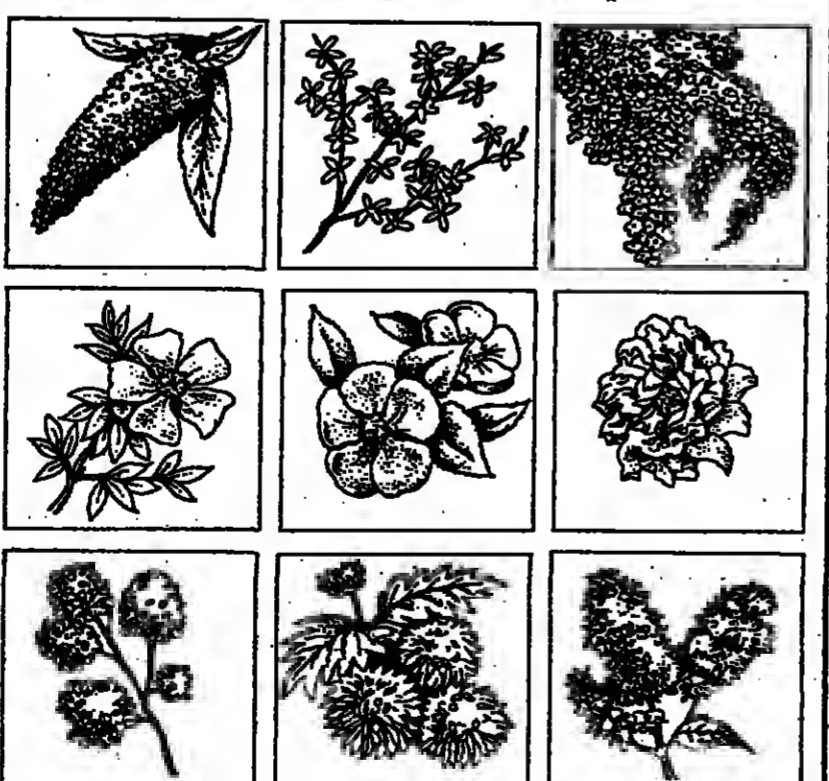
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SATURDAY

September 20-26, 1986

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Soaps that cleaned up

Next week, television's wedding of the year will take place. As millions of fans get their hankies ready for the moment when Michelle will say 'I do' to Lofty, Bryan Appleyard goes on to the secretive set of EastEnders, where even Dirty Den has to abide by the rules



16 m



18 m



23 m



?

THE PROGRAMMES THAT PULLED THE PUNTERS

There is nothing like a wedding for attracting audiences... Mrs Dale's Diary discovered back in the early 1950s... Coronation Street, which started in December 1960, staged its first big audience coup in September 1962 when the two-month-old baby son of Harry and Constance Hewitt was kidnapped from his pram... EastEnders, 1986: The wedding - and a new soap record?

Coronation Street has continued to work the formula at regular intervals... Dallas, which began in 1964, had its biggest audience - more than 16 million - in April 1975 when the owner of the Crossroads motel, Meg Mortimer married John Richardson... EastEnders, which began in 1985, has its biggest audience - more than 16 million - in April 1986 when the owner of the Crossroads motel, Meg Mortimer married John Richardson...

But all these hands were trumped by the American import, Dallas. Whipped up by Terry Wogan on his early morning radio show, Dallas fever swept the land in anticipation of the shooting of the nasty oilman, J.R. Ewing. The event took place at 8.58 pm on May 26 1980, watched by 23.3 million people... Peter Waymark

A couple of teenage girls slobber unhappily outside the front gates of the BBC's Elstree Centre. The school holidays are over so most of them have given up this waiting game - even the one who travelled daily from Hastings through-out the summer... For Elstree is where they make EastEnders. This BBC1 soap opera pulls in audiences of 18 to 20 million weekly, peaking - in the episode just before Dirty Den's wife Angie tried to 'top' herself - at 24.35 million. Next week it will peak again as the wedding of Lofty and single parent Michelle approaches. Forget that little number at the Abbey

in July, this is the big one. The show has transformed both the history of British soaps and the recent history of the BBC. Its format is refreshingly simple - an 'old-fashioned' East End square, in the fictional London borough of Walford, is the geographical anchor for a number of tales of contemporary urban working-class life. There is a pub - the Queen Victoria - a laundrette, a street market, and a canal which seems to exert a strange, imaginative pull on both characters and audience. It is deeply embedded in a culture; that of the cockney proletariat with its wide boys, stoical mothers and hermetic yet threatening cosiness. In fact, on paper it looks almost like a south-of-Watford version of Coronation Street. But the real EastEnders revolution is stylistic. Where once Elsie Tanner, Len Fairclough and Ena Sharples had seemed

suffused with an immediate, almost dangerous realism, they eventually became a quarter of a century down the line, oddly formalized and theatrical. The time had come for a new definition of the conventions of soap realism - and come the hour, come the soap. And that hour happened to coincide with another - the hour when BBC1 and its new chief, Michael Grade, needed a bi-weekly early evening hook to drag it out of the ratings hole into which it had fallen as a result of some tiffy scheduling by ITV. The news that the BBC was to make a cockney soap was, however, greeted with some derision. An arch chronicle of the lives of pearty kings and queens was expected. But EastEnders shocked everybody. Far from being full of 'characters' it seemed peopled by evil-minded layabouts, forever bickering and forever broke. Its audiences stayed higher than expected and then, with a switch to its time slot from 7 pm to 7.30, it shot ahead of Coronation Street. Soaps have come and gone, of course, but this one seemed here to stay - after all these years, the Street had been superseded. EastEnders had a culture as coherent and fertile to draw upon - but the life it reflected suddenly seemed more, well, real.

Michelle told Den he was the father of her child. So, on this rehearsal day only Anita Dobson and Leslie Grantham are at Elstree and they 'don't give interviews'. This can't be bad for an actor - from nothing to 'I want to be alone' in 18 months. Away from the cameras the Dirty Den aura has gone - Grantham flits by wearing grey C & A-style casual wear rather than the slimy-rat suits he affects in the series. He might as well be in Brookside. Elsewhere, an episode of the children's series Grange Hill is being shot... in the car park which serves as the school playground. A man in white overalls is pasting up Meat Loaf posters on the fake brickwork with instructions from Harris to 'dirty them up a bit'. And outside, a couple of mournful teenagers decide to call it a day.

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the odd fan has got this far. Usually they remove the street signs - 'London Borough of Walford, Albert Square, E20' - but Keith Harris, the designer, now secures them with industrial glue and pop rivets. He has even welded on the top of the cast-iron pillar 'top' which was once dragged to the perimeter fence. Perversely, nobody seems to have vandalized the phone box. British Telecom, however, has been doing its bit by trying to persuade the BBC to replace it with a modern black and yellow one - as a piece of subliminal propaganda against the old, red variety. Harris has been with the show since its inception and is responsible for the look and feel of Albert Square. Basically, 'this' means making everything as awful as possible - worse than the least genteel real East End square. The reason for this is that everything looks slightly better on television: the small screen spruces things up. So, whenever Harris is on the set, he bashes it about a bit. We come to a far corner of the square and Harris pauses, a touch reverentially. 'This,' he says, 'is where Julia stood when this was just an open space full of wet sand - it used to be the building site in Alf Holland and Smith know - and she said, 'Whatever you build I want to be able to see that block of flats over there.' He gestures towards a typical East End block, a real one, which springs mysteriously from the centre of Borehamwood. Harris is speaking of Julia Smith, the producer who - along with script editor Tony Holland - is responsible for

the conception and execution of the series. They are a fearsome double act. Their power is absolute - and wielded with a Stalinist conviction that he who is not for us is against us. There are a hundred anecdotes about the totality of their reign - the ferocious cost controls that lead to stars being refused taxis and the near-complete veto on respectable holiday breaks. But such evidence is unnecessary after you have spent time at their Shepherd's Bush offices. Their confidence is awesome. 'Well,' Smith says, 'the BBC insisted on doing some market research at the beginning of all this. But we told them we would only take any notice if it confirmed what we were going to do anyway. And if we had taken any notice we would have had to drop the most successful character. The BBC people were against him anyway.' 'Dirty Den?' I venture eagerly, but she declines to go further. But she clearly means Den who, apart from being dirty, fathering Michelle's baby and driving his wife Angie to the edge is, in real life, Leslie Grantham, who served 11 years in prison for murdering a taxi driver in Germany. Mention this - and the gleeful surrealization of the incident by the tabloids - and the Smith head descends into the Smith hands in despair. This has got to be bluff - Grantham's past can have done EastEnders nothing but good, publicity-wise. But even Grantham is kept to check by Smith and Holland, who control their cast with an elaborate series of rules, the most unbreakable

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A WEEK IN ALBERT SQUARE Producing a year-round, twice-a-week soap is a formidable piece of logistics. EastEnders is rehearsed and shot entirely at Elstree, editing and dubbing at Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush. There is one producer - Julia Smith - and a team of writers who work in a rota. Tony Holland, the script editor, writes occasionally, to keep his hand in, and a specific writer may, occasionally, be felt to be a specialist in one type of situation - otherwise it is a strict rota. Holland and Smith know the plot, but writers are told no more than they need to. Actors are told virtually nothing. 'You don't live your life knowing what's going to happen to you,' Holland explains. Two episodes are usually shot each week, but currently

they are coming up to a double-banking period, in which four episodes a week will be made - this allows time off at Christmas. The schedule is as follows: Monday: Morning, rehearsal; Afternoon, producer's run-through, rehearsing the major moves, and technical run-through to get camera movements and scenery right. Tuesday: All-day rehearsals and lighting run-through. Wednesday and Thursday: Recording of interior scenes. Working day lasts from 10 am to 10 pm. Friday: Exteriors recorded on Elstree lot and rehearsals begin for following week. Saturday: Rehearsals. Sunday: Day off - for actors to learn their lines.

SATURDAY Grape expectation: Following the wine route in the heart of England's hop country - page 13

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL I

Not far from the madding crowd



BEST OF BRITAIN

In another of our occasional series, **Michael Watkins** discovers that the Dorchester immortalized in the great novels of Thomas Hardy's sleepy Wessex can still evoke the same magic

Poor William Barnes merits only four excerpts in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, while Hardy wallows luxuriously among 70. There's the rub, I suppose—the reason why Hardy steals most of Dorchester's limelight. If it hadn't been for *Linden Lea*, I doubt very much if Barnes's statue would occupy prime space outside the parish church, leaving Hardy inhaling toxic traffic fumes at the far end of town.

He is not amused, relegated to an obscure plinth above the Austins and Toyotas, facing a No Entry sign for the rest of eternity. You can see that Hardy doesn't care for his alternative accommodation in Collyer Walk: he wears a brow-creased look of tetchiness that makes you wonder if there may be something in local gossip that he was a grumpy so-and-so.

All billowy-bosomed, bow-fronted as a pregnant marchioness

Dorothy Cox is old enough to remember him. She has read all his books and seen the plays, yet she still recalls the author who lived in Max Gate as a touch irascible. Dorchester used to be a lovely place, she said, but today the traffic—oh my word, you'd never cross the road!

Cornhill is full of Tesco, Presto and Halfords; and soft accents straight from *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. High West Street, on the other hand, seems reluctant to acknowledge the century's turn, the clock having stopped in about 1886. There are no lamp-posts, telegraph poles or wires, although there is a helpful sign, chiselled in stone, to the

effect that Hyde Park Corner is 120 miles away. The council offices, scene of the Assize Court of 1834, witnessed the trial of George Loveless and his farm worker companions who united "to preserve ourselves, our wives and our children from utter degradation and starvation". For their involvement in these seditious trade union activities, they were sentenced to seven years' transportation to Australia's penal colonies. It was lucky that these Tolpuddle martyrs were not arraigned to appear at an earlier Assize before Judge Jeffrey; or that they were not guilty of "injuring any part of this County Bridge", for which the sentence was transportation for life.

The judge of the Bloody Assizes lodged opposite what is now the County Museum, housing a collection of Hardy's manuscripts and the remains of reptiles which lived in Dorset—then under a warm sea—200 million years ago. The museum is a heap of Victoriana, the kind favoured by Bejteman. In fact, the poet knew the area well and it was the subject for one of his most famous poems, "Dorset". I loved the King's Arms Hotel, all billowy-bosomed, bow-fronted as a pregnant marchioness; and I much admired the Mayor of Casterbridge's house, currently in credit as a branch of Barclays Bank.

In his "Dorset", Bejteman was so drawn to Mellstock Churchyard, a mile or so from Dorchester (Mellstock, in fact, being Hardy's fictional name for Sturford), that it amazes me he didn't choose a plot there for himself. He would have found good company, alongside Cecil Day Lewis, Tranter Reuben and all the Hardy family, including



Thomas—or at least his heart, the less significant remains being at Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey.

Sturford is where Hardy's choir sang, treble and tenor, and through bass. There's no choir there today but it's a pretty church, with a prettier river walk which the choristers took on their way to evensong... the trouble is that fact and fiction become so interwoven it's hard to tell them apart.

Was Tess dishonoured by Alec d'Urberville in Kingsbere or Bere Regis? Where did Sergeant Troy mesmerize Bathsheba with his sword-play: at Weatherbury or Puddletown? Where was the Greenwood Tree: at Hardy's birthplace at Bockhampton or in an entirely different location? There is a whole gallery of not-so-fictional characters: Jude, Gabriel Oak, Angel

Clarke—all drawn from life, their descendants living in Wessex today.

Did I say Wessex? Then it is time to trade one enigma with another, swapping scenery too, for Hardy's landscape is placid, all fleecy sheep, woolly clouds, and octogenarians driving 1956 Morris Minors with terrible care all the way to Camelot. Bovington is made of sterner stuff: a fern-covered papier mâché countryside, criss-crossed with caterpillar tracks; pock-marked by high-trajectory shells. A great blasted heath. Tank battles take place here and there are scarlet Ministry of Defence notices telling you not to photograph them; a bit old hat, surely, when Russian satellites are at it all day long!

It was here, after his management of the Arab Revolt, that Colonel Lawrence—now, in the name of

T. E. Shaw, an enlisted man in the Royal Tank Corps—rented a cottage where he worked on the proofs of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. During another incarnation, as Aircraftman 338171 Shaw, the cottage was fitted for eventual retirement.

It was at this time that Shaw sent Noël Coward a copy of *The Mint*, in reply to which

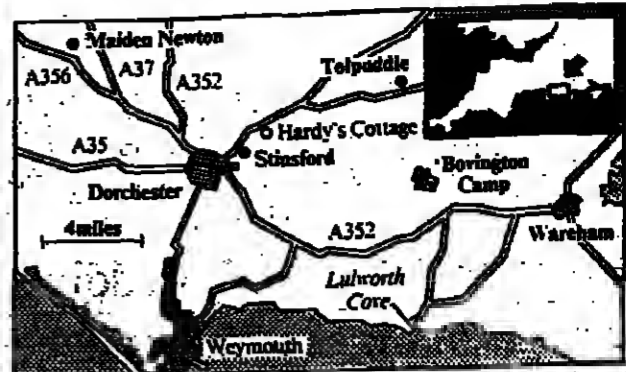
Sheep everywhere, stuffed to the ears in rich green grass

Coward began his letter: "Dear 338171... may I call you 3387?" And it was from here, in May 1935, that the Oxonian/lyric/poet/writer/extraordinary/enigma, swearing to avoid killing two errand boys, finally succeeded in killing himself.

The cottage, Clouds Hill, is one of the National Trust's smallest properties, its pattern of opening times so erratic that I arrived precisely 24 hours early. Humbly, I approached the custodian: "Two o'clock tomorrow", she said. Begging that I'd come a long way cut on ice: "Two o'clock tomorrow."

It looked a small cottage, the colour of desert sand, blinded by shutters against the evil eye and enclosed by a thick hedge. It gave nothing away. Houses are not usually inanimate, living through the memories they contain, but Clouds Hill felt like a contrivance, hollow. It was right, in a way, that I didn't see inside, any more than I'd want to see inside the sham of Lawrence himself—if such were the truth.

Instead, I took the Warham road. I was looking



Meditations on an English landscape: tranquil Lulworth Cove, left, and peaceful Dorchester, below



hard at polishing his aura of mystery, didn't he?"

More sheep everywhere, stuffed to the ears in rich green grass, and cream teas advertised from every thatched cottage under a canopy of summer heat. I followed a sign to Lulworth Cove because I had my bathing things on the back seat. The chalk cliffs suddenly ended and two arms of Portland and Purbeck stone encircled a lagoon-like bay. There were thousands of people and muffled crumps from the nearby artillery firing range. The single was hell on the feet and you had to wade almost to 'Cherbourg' to get figs of weed, but the water was bracing-cool and tasted of sea instead of the garbage which you swallow on the Côte d'Azur.

As I floated I pondered on what was, frequently being described as the "special Mediterranean quality of the light" in these parts. There's nothing Mediterranean about the light: it's Dorset light, bright enough to read by, clear enough to see as far as the Dolomites and good enough to be proud of.

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins stayed a few miles north of Dorchester at Maiden Newton. Chalk Newton in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*—at Maiden Newton House (0308 20336). It is a member of the Wolsey Lodge organization: private homes run as personal small hotels. Double rooms cost £27 to £34 a night, dinner £11.50 each. There are 87 Wolsey Lodges. Information from 17 Chapel Street, Blitonston, Suffolk (0449 741297).

THE SUNDAY TIMES

ALL THAT'S BEST IN BRITISH JOURNALISM

IAN MacGREGOR

ROUND ONE OF MY FIGHT WITH THE MINERS



FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI on Callas and the Burtons



RUSSELL HARTY on Alan Bennett

PLUS FIVE PAGES OF SPORT

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THE SUNDAY TIMES COLOUR MAGAZINE SPECIAL

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Evenings draw in and the lights go up on the season's arts and entertainment. In this special 64-page preview, Sunday Times Magazine writers profile the biggest stars and pick out the hottest acts to follow



VISUAL ARTS
TELEVISION
CINEMA
BOOKS
DANCE
MUSIC 1
MUSIC 2
THEATRE!

TRAVEL II

OUT AND ABOUT

Pirates' French leave

Things have changed on Noirmoutier. Time was when this little island, three-quarters of the way up the west coast of France, was a hive of nefarious activity, providing a haven for pirates and foreign armies who saw it — rightly — as an ideal place from which to launch their attacks on the mainland.

At the end of the 18th century, it witnessed some of the bloodiest incidents and most concentrated fighting of the French Revolution. Today, as you look out over the deserted salt marshes and hear the wind sighing softly in the pine trees, such things seem unimaginable. What you see is an island which is simply very flat, very thin, very quiet and very ordinary.

Men with hats porer about on battered old bicycles, plump women gossip as they hang out their washing; little windmills dot the countryside; at the laundrette the driers don't work and no one is around to give you the right change. In short, it is French but not particularly French; it is much like any other dozy rural retreat. That, of course, is its appeal.

Because of its size — just seven miles long — it does not take long to discover the principal landmarks and attractions. We started with the most obvious — the 12th-century chateau which dominates Noirmoutier-en-l'Île, the only town of any size on the island. Inside is a small, homely and uncluttered museum; outside, if your nerves can stand it, you can totter round the ramparts, risking your life on a short stretch



Marine matters: chatting over a basket of oysters

where the path narrows, the wind howls and the safety rail seems on the verge of collapse.

The easiest way to recover your poise is to stroll across the square and take a gentle ride on "Le Petit Train" as it trundles through Le Bois de la Chaise. This north-eastern corner is the most scenically beautiful part of the island and at the height of summer, so we were reliably informed, the whole place positively swarms with them.

Most coming pouring in over the bridge, opened in 1971, which connects the island to the mainland. The more adventurous wait for low tide and use the Gois causeway, a road running for nearly three miles across the sea. By the end of August, however, when we arrived, these seasonal invaders — like the pirates of old — had decamped, leaving the natives in peace.

And what peace. Mile after mile of sandy beach — 25 in all — lies empty, save for the occasional family. The bathing is good, the walking even better; you can wander for hours along the water's edge, your face freshened by the wind and warmed by the sun. Marine pursuits, naturally enough, are the main preoccupation of the islanders. As if to prove that their knowl-

edge of the sea is a match for anyone, the townspeople of Noirmoutier have set up a delightful little aquarium. From the outside it looks unprepossessing, even shabby — a faded mural depicting Neptune rising from the waves painted on a grubby wall and a front door which looks permanently locked. Inside it is a revelation — beautifully laid out, imaginatively lit and boasting a host of exotic creatures, including piranhas from Brazil and tiny crocodiles from the Nile.

Elsewhere, eclipsed by grander things, it would probably not rate a mention. In Noirmoutier it seemed pretty special. Small, as they say, is beautiful.

John Carey



Noirmoutier claims to have the highest concentration of hotels on the Venetian coast — 17 in all. We stayed at the Hotel La Volière in La Guadimère, on a Just France package organized by Westbury Travel, Westfield House, Westbury, Wiltshire (0373 826283). This year the hotel is not included in the Just France programme, except as one of the options in its touring holidays.

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Brussels Bruges Luxembourg. For a free copy of an attractive poster delightfully illustrated by a number of artists, write to: Time Off Ltd., Chester Close, London SW1X 7BQ.

Wine in the land of the hops

Englishmen are known to become misty-eyed as they drive through the French villages of the Médoc and gaze on the acres of vines bearing evocative names like Lafite and Latour. They could, however, if they wished, make a wine pilgrimage in their own country.

The varied landscape and soil conditions of the Surrey Downs, rolling down to the Kentish Weald and Sussex, is the hub of English wine growing. Oast houses, a reminder of the area's traditional crop of hops, sit comfortably with the sprawling farms and red brick period homes which tend to be surrounded by beautifully kept gardens and make delightful interludes for a day out.

Before visiting any of the following vineyards it is advisable to telephone ahead to check days and times of tours and quote the number of people in your party. At peak times you may have to book your tour in advance. Some owners may provide simple food or offer picnic facilities, but do ask before you arrive. The vineyard tours are modestly priced (usually £2 for adults) and include tastings.

Berwick Glebe: J D Broster and D A Brks, Fresham Cottage, Berwick, Polegate, Sussex (0323 870361). Immaculately kept two-acre vineyard handily sited for a good local pub, The Cricketers. The parish church has murals painted by members of the Bloomsbury set and is near Charleston Farm, associated with Virginia Woolf. Wine on sale, but visits by arrangement only.

Biddenden: R A Barnes, Little Whitman's, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent (0227 231729). Its 1983 Oranga wine won the English Wine of the Year Award. This 18-acre vineyard, started in 1969 on a third of an acre, produces a range of varieties plus some-made cider. Open May-Oct Mon-Sat 11-5pm; Sun noon-5pm; Nov-April: Mon-Sat 11-2pm. Food available by arrangement.

Breaky Bottom P Hill, Breaky Bottom Vineyard, Rodmell, Lewes, Sussex (0273 476427). This four-acre vineyard is reached along a farm track, one mile off a side road. The winery is housed in a period brick and flint building. The dry wines are reminiscent of French, rather than the more usual German, taste. Visits by arrangement.

Carr Taylor: David and Linda Carr Taylor, Carr Taylor Vineyard, Westfield, Hastings, East Sussex (0424 752525). The grassy site of this 21-acre vineyard is the owners' quality sparkling wine made by méthode champenoise, which is exported to France and found on international wine lists. Open April-Dec 10am-5pm; tours can be arranged.

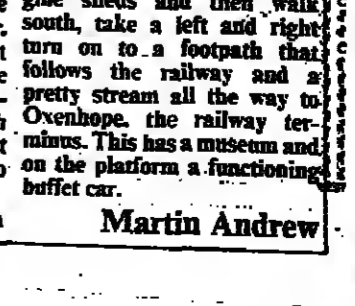
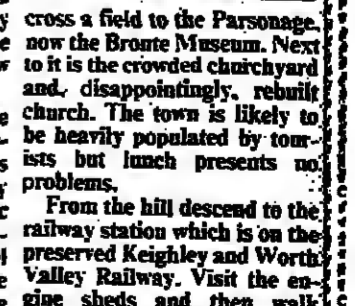
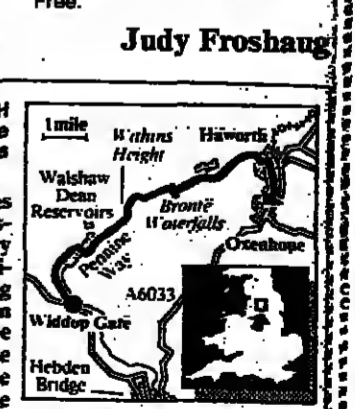
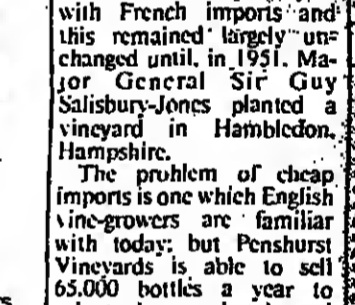
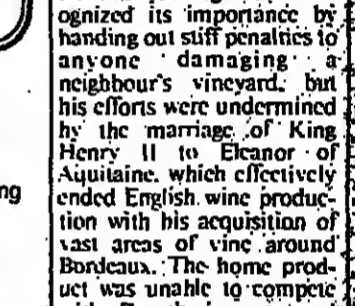
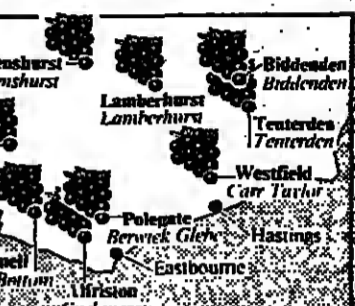
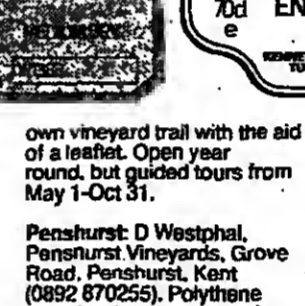
Chilchdown: Ian Paget, Chilchdown Vineyard, Singleton, Chichester, Sussex (0243 633989). Open April-Sept 10am-6pm. Set in 13 acres the winery is housed in the old station which served for nearby Goodwood. It is also near beautiful West Dean Gardens and an open air museum of preserved buildings.

Cuckmere: Christopher and Lucy Ann, The English Wine Centre, Drusilla's Corner, Afriston, East Sussex (0323 870532). A wine museum, a shop with a wide range of English wines, a restaurant and pub serving British regional food, and a family area. Mr Ann will also advise enthusiasts wishing to plan an English wine tour. Open year round, guided tours by appointment.

Lamberhurst: K McAlpine, Ridge Farm, Lamberhurst, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 890844 for tours). Eight white and one rose are now produced from the 40-acre vineyard, many of them medal winners in the English Wine of the Year competition. Lamberhurst wines have been served at Buckingham Palace and the Lord Mayor of London's banquet. You can take a guided tour or follow your



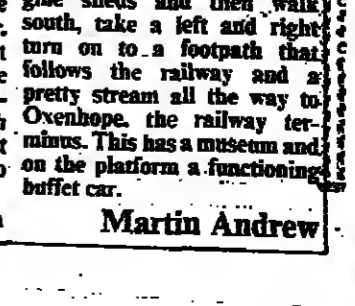
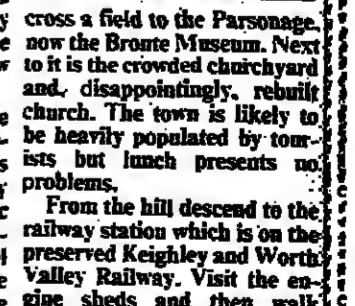
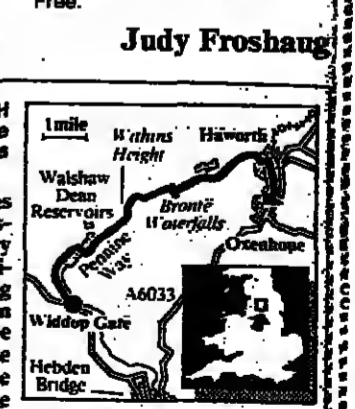
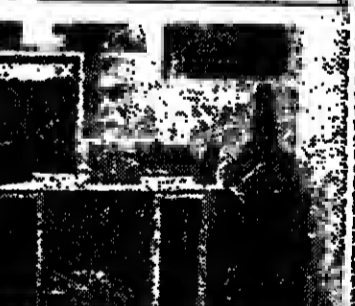
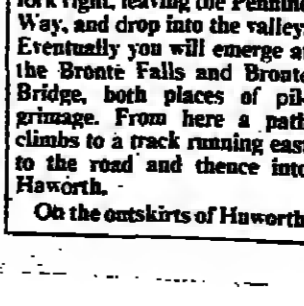
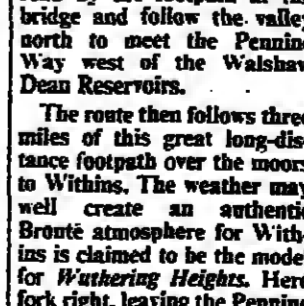
Vine time: Peter Hall of Breaky Bottom, above, tending the next vintage, and below, the end product and how to find it



A case of history

Viticulture — the cultivation of vines — was brought to Britain by the Romans who then swamped the home market with their own wines from Italy. King Alfred recognized its importance by handing out stiff penalties to anyone damaging a neighbour's vineyard, but his efforts were undermined by the marriage of King Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine, which effectively ended English wine production with his acquisition of vast areas of vine around Bordeaux. The home product was unable to compete with French imports and this remained largely unchanged until, in 1951, Major General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones planted a vineyard in Hambledon, Hampshire.

The problem of cheap imports is one which English vine-growers are familiar with today; but Penhurst Vineyards is able to sell 65,000 bottles a year to private buyers, hotels and British institutions. It was David Westphal's father Bob who in 1972 first planted vines at Penhurst "for fun". In the same year, Kenneth McAlpine at nearby Lamberhurst was doing the same thing. McAlpine's involvement has increased from eight acres in 1976, producing 70,000 bottles, to 48 acres and 700,000 bottles today.



Now's the moment for your late holiday of the year. And where better to spend a few days than in Bournemouth's sophisticated atmosphere? In a delightful setting, with superb restaurants, live shows, night clubs and casinos, Bournemouth has much to charm any late visitors and set them up for the winter to come. A wide range of excellent accommodation awaits you. Ring 0202 291715 (24 hours) for full colour literature or write to Dept. 199, Bournemouth Tourism, Bournemouth BH1 2BU. So much more besides the sea. Get away this Bournemouth!

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Waverley Cruises: Probably the best of the handful of working paddle steamers still in existence, the Waverley makes its annual end of season visit to London before returning to Scotland for a winter rest and refurbishment. A fine alternative to the more conventionally powered river cruises. Excursions to and from Tibury, Southend and Whitstable. Tower Pier, Tower Hill, London EC3. Tickets at venue or from Waverley Excursions (041 2218152). Today, tomorrow, Mon and Sep 24-28, Adult £9-£12, child £4.50-£8.

GREAT BILLINGSQATE FISH FAIR: Almost every kind of fish to be had in the British Isles will be on display together with continuous cooking and hilling demonstrations, wine tastings, stalls, stands, media celebrities, peary kings and queens, children's entertainments, live music and refreshments — fish and otherwise. Billingsgate Market, 87 West India Dock Road, London E14. Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm. Adult £2, child 50p.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WEEKEND: Re-enactment of a typical skirmish by the Southern Skirmish Association with the Band of the 55th Virginia Regiment as vanguard. Also an exhibition about the war, in the museum which houses 18 period American rooms from 17th-19th centuries and some fine galleries of American silver and pewter. Gardens include an American arboretum, a replica of George Washington's garden and an Indian lodge. American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, Avon (0225 80503). Today, tomorrow, 1.30-6pm. Admission to grounds and skirmish, 50p. House and grounds, adult £2.25, child £1.75.

HERSEMAN'S SUNDAY: Traditional annual occasion in which the vicar of St John's Hyde Park, astride his horse, conducts a service of blessing. Some 100 horses and riders usually attend and the service is followed by a horse show with clear round jumping, handy ponies, fancy dress and gymkhana. Service, racetrack of St John's Church, Hyde Park, London W2. Tomorrow, noon. Horse show, the Paddock, Kensington Gardens, London W2. 1.30-5pm. Both events free.

RALLY OF STATIONARY ENGINES: Some 50-60 are expected over the weekend, most with agricultural functions. Also the blacksmith's forge working at intervals, demonstrations of wood-turning, sick dressing and tomorrow, brushing. Shire horse and model railway rides plus all the superb buildings — from the 15th-century merchant's house to the 18th-century forge cottage — open as usual. Light refreshments and teas. Aircraft Museum of Buildings, Sticks Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (0527 31886). Today, 11am-5.30pm. Adult £1.75, child 80p.

OUTINGS

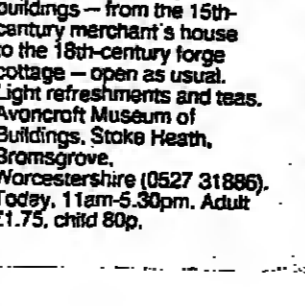
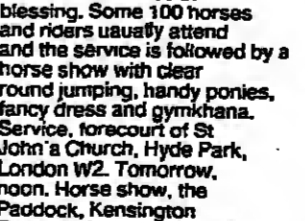
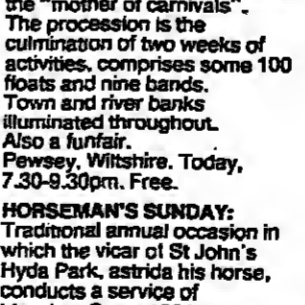
LAUNCH PAD: After two years of research and experimentation, the "hands on" gallery is now permanently open to the public. A truly exciting and innovative place where children — and adults — may learn more about scientific principles through a series of exhibits, each of which is an experiment or demonstration that can be individually operated. You can use a computer television set to produce a variety of self-images, help fill an energy store, build a bridge, a chair, control a robot, experiment with mirrors, lights and much more. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (01-589 3456). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Free.

JUDY FROSHAGH

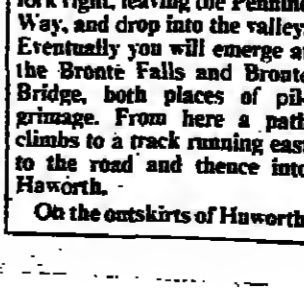
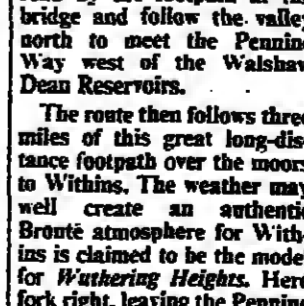
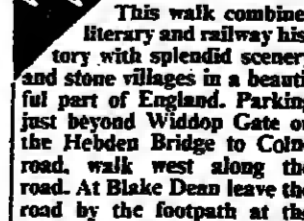
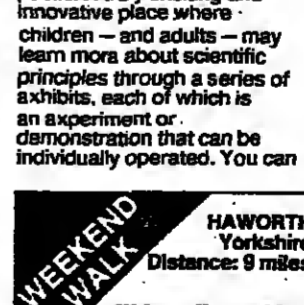
WEEKEND WALKS

HAWORTH YORKSHIRE DISTANCE: 9 miles. This walk combines literary and railway history with splendid scenery and stone villages in a beautiful part of England. Parking just beyond Widdop Gate on the Hebden Bridge to Colne road, walk west along the road. At Blake Dean leave the bridge and follow the valley north to meet the Pennine Way west of the Walshaw Dean Reservoirs. The route then follows three miles of this great long-distance footpath over the moors to Withins. The weather may well create an authentic Bronte atmosphere for Withins is claimed to be the model for Wuthering Heights. Here fork right, leaving the Pennine Way, and drop into the valley. Eventually you will emerge at the Bronte Falls and Bronte Bridge, both places of pilgrimage. From here a path climbs to a track running east to the road and thence into Haworth. On the outskirts of Haworth

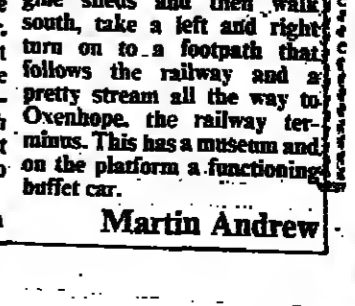
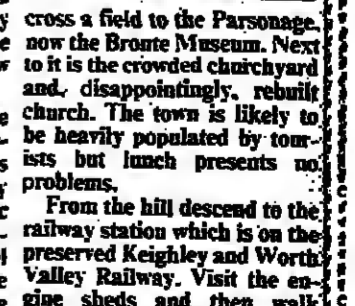
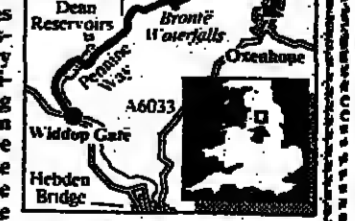
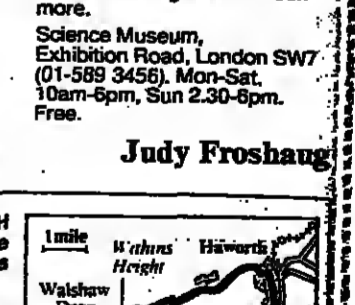
Beauty in Bromsgrove: shire horses at the rally (right)



On the outskirts of Haworth



Martin Andrew



SHOPPING

By Beryl Downing

Cinderella just for the party night

Partypoers are looking forward to a sparkling season with evening fashions more glamorous than ever. But if your social round includes several formal occasions and your evening dresses are greeted with cries of "It looks as lovely as ever darling", then you might prefer to ring the changes by hiring.

A company that started in St Albans, Hertfordshire, two years ago and now has franchises in seven more towns is Just For The Night. The founders Cheryl Matthews and Lynette Tomney specialise in "everything after six", from discos to grand balls.

Well known designer names include Frank Usher and John Bates and 250 dresses are available for the £35 hire charge, with an £80 returnable deposit. Sizes are from 8 to 18 and ages from 13 to 80. There are also evening handbags and jewellery to complete the outfit. Telephone 0727 40759 for an appointment.

The franchisees, whose stock is controlled by the head office so that standards and quality remain constant, are in Barnet, Berkhamstead, Dunstable, East Grinstead, Hindhead and Northampton with Oxford opening on October 1 and Hitchin later that month.

Other dress hire agencies include One Night Stand in Pimlico (01-730 8708) who have sizes 10 to 20 at £40 to £65 with a £100 deposit, and Simpsons in Covent Garden (01-436 2381) who offer sizes 8 to 14 (or a tall 16) for £25 to £50.

Swinging in the rain

Fair weather golfers may not be keeping up to scratch after a summer of floods and hurricanes, but there are now indoor practice ranges where they can keep dry while improving their swing and which include videos of players in action so that they can see their mistakes.

Among these is The Golfer at 48 Chiltern Street, London W1 (01 487 3318), where individual lessons cost £11 for half an hour (or £55 for six).

Arrangements can also be made with large companies to give instruction on their own premises. For details contact the pro, George Stoneham.

The Chinese treasure takeaway

Picture by James Darrell, hair by Peter Kenny



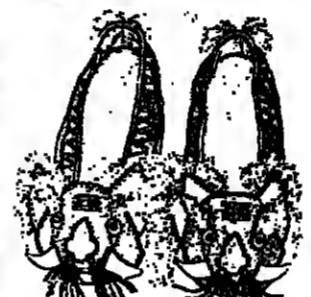
Madame Butterfly: late 19th century silk quilted robe with butterfly embroidery (once worn by a courtesan). Price £600 from Marilyn Garrow at Liberty. Antique fans from £60

Liberty's store has been travelling to the Far East since 1875, so it can fairly lay claim to the title of "Lao-Peng You". It means "old friends".

The store has chosen this title for the most comprehensive exhibition it has ever staged of Chinese goods — antique and modern — which includes textiles, furniture, screens, lacquerware, bambooware and two and a half tons of marble statues. And it's all for sale.

The 18th and 19th-century textiles, collected by Marilyn Garrow, include Kossu robes at £3,000 which would only have been worn by royal princes, gauze robes at £600 worn in the summer and often given as birthday gifts from the Emperor, and some intricately pleated wrap-around skirts from £120 which would have been worn for burials.

Such rare pieces are bought by collectors to display as hangings rather than to wear — they would, in any case, tend to look like fancy dress — but there are jacket and dress-length robes with less lavish embroidery which could be worn very successfully as evening coats. Prices are from about £200 to £600, depending on age and rarity. The motifs

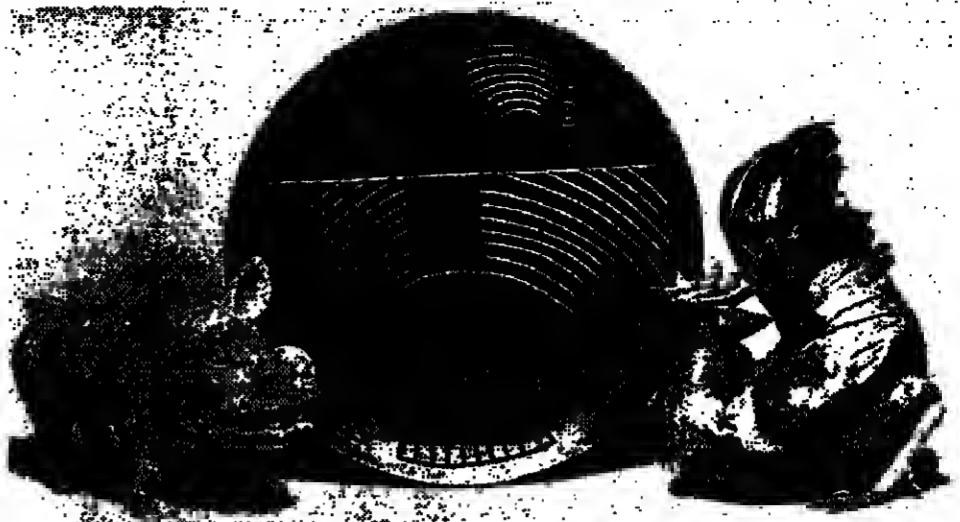


Tiger tiger: children's slippers £9.95 at Neal Street East

include birds, flowers and figures. Butterflies indicate that the robe was once worn by a courtesan.

The treasure trove that Alison Pyrah, Liberty's Oriental department buyer, brings back each year from China always includes a good selection of late 19th-century blue and white porcelain — this year there are 800 pots from £10 to several hundreds for the eager collectors who queue to buy them.

There are also some fine and rare Imperial pieces shown in the Liberty exhibition by the specialists S.



Animal magic: mythical clay hog made in Beijing £50; carved bird figure lacquer tray made in Shaanxi £65; and painted and varnished cockerel in bamboo £25, all at Liberty

Marchant and Son, 120 Kensington Church Street, London W8 (01-229 5319). These include a magnificent bowl at £6,250. Of the Yongzheng period (1723-1735), it is decorated with three fish in underglazed red — the most difficult colour to produce as it often turns brown.

Marchants are also showing pieces from the first Hatcher cargo which sank in the 1640s in the South China Seas, before the highly publicized Nanking cargo which was auctioned earlier this year.

Some of the most curious pieces on show are modern, although made to look ancient and traditional. One of the carved plates in terracotta lacquer was snapped up immediately by the Victoria & Albert Museum for their modern Chinese collection.

"The rather Aztec decoration could be totally modern, or it could be something very traditional", says Alison Pyrah. "No one knows very much about Chinese folk art as there is very little documentation."

More modern folk art comes in the form of bamboo basketware, and in a collection of curious mythical animals made recently but which look as if they had been buried with the 2,000-year-old clay army of the Emperor Qin Shihuang, discovered in 1984. Prices range from £35 to £75.

For collectors who want to make a statement that no visitor can overlook there are 48,616 marble figures of the eight immortals, looking very

old and wise, with long beards and flowing robes. They also have eight mythical counterparts with bird and animal faces, also made in Chinese marble — a very hard form of soapstone — and costing about £500 each.

The exhibition opens on October 2 and continues until October 25. There will be simultaneous exhibitions of a smaller selection of Chinese goods at main Liberty branches throughout the country.

Drawings by Jill Field



Sew neat: 19th century needle case £39 at Neal Street East

Two other focal points for Oriental specialties in London are Neal Street East in Covent Garden and the Oriental Shop in Chelsea.

For Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, London WC2 (01-240 0135), Christina Smith, who has been visiting China since the end of the cultural revolution, has been seeking unusual wares from minority tribes

whose work is only just beginning to be seen in the West.

"Four or five years ago there was a policy to be nice to the minorities who were persecuted during the revolution", she says. "They are now being allowed to bring their goods to the Canton Fair and the result is that there are a lot more textiles, ceramics and jewellery available from Tibet, Mongolia and the Laos borders."

Interesting small pieces include a modern green celadon-style water-drip duck which was used for painting — water is poured in through a hole in the back and dripped slowly out from another hole by the beak, £3.68, and several late 19th-century metal needle cases with intricately worked caps which pull up to reveal a slender tube to hold the needles. Prices around £35. The textiles include children's slippers embroidered with animal faces, £9.95, and there are more than 1,000 books on every subject from cooking to calligraphy.

At the Oriental Shop, 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (01-730 4370), Joss Graham has charming brooches made of kingfisher feathers at about £20 and an interesting collection of Tibetan metalware, including copper Gau boxes which contained religious scrolls to protect the wearer against evil and which were hung on a belt or round the neck when travelling. In various shapes, some decorated, some simply polished, from £32 to £45.

IN THE GARDEN

By Francesca Greenoak

Impressions from a man for all seasons

To visit Paul Gell's garden in Plymouth is to see the subjects of his ravishing paintings in a living landscape: it is beautiful, carefully composed and secretive, glowing inside high cliff walls.

Gell is a gentle, tall man, his hair greying at the temples. He is immensely courteous, but reserved. There is warmth in his voice as he describes "a special feeling for plants" and how his garden gives him fresh insight for his paintings. Yet after a long and severe illness, Paul Gell is selling his house and hiding goodbye to the garden which has served as his inspiration for the past 10 years.

A country garden inside the town, it is tucked into and around a massive limestone rock from the top of which you can look out over Plymouth Sound to the ocean.

The artist's first act of landscaping was to replace a stark bed of hybrid roses, making a pool surrounded by contrasting textures and colours: soft pale Alchemilla foliage and lavender flowers against the tall dark evergreen spikes of New Zealand flax.

His ideal is "a happy compromise between man and nature, planning and accidents", and he continued to plant using the natural complexity of his two acres to create a series of small, enclosed gardens on different

levels, leading off from the main garden which skirts the eastern side of the house.

From the lawn of the large garden, which stretches beneath the red chestnut tree, there is a focus of interest in every direction. Draping the high cliff wall, skeins of virginia creeper change from green to autumn crimson, and ivy-leaved toadflax and pretty campanula (*Campanula portenschlagiana*) flower abundantly from toe-holds in the rock crevices.

In its shelter is a sunny flowerbed, where all lily-like cormiums (safe to plant outdoors, only in milder parts of the country) are still in flower. A path runs through the herb garden, where the painter's two Russian blue Siamese cats lounge elegantly among the silver white sage and artemisia, taking you into a quiet dell made into a shady garden.

Two shapely pink lacy-cap hydrangeas with their flowery coronets (*Hydrangea macrophylla Mariesti*) were "planted to give a splash of blue, but I've decided they're actually nicer as they are". This "happy accident" probably came about through a nurseryman's mistake rather

His never uses a sketch pad, but works from memory

than the natural propensity of the species to come pink on an alkaline soil. It is possible to grow blue varieties in chalk or limey soil by adding Sequestrene or aluminium sulphate, and conversely give annual limestone dressings to keep pink kinds from purpling in acid conditions but it seems perverse.

An all-seasons gardener, Paul Gell's passions range from spring tulips "especially the white, Mount Tacoma — like single peonies" through to the wintry varieties of hellebore. Most of his plants could be grown in any garden but palms, yucca, mimosa (*Acacia dealbata*) and a tall strawberry tree with ripe red fruits, provide an exotic touch which can be achieved in the south-west of the country. "The bay trees even self-seed here", commented Gell.

Pittosporum with their glossy leaves make slender,



Seat of inspiration: Paul Gell in his walled garden and (left) his Hibiscus from Bali, a watercolour, from the 1986 Francis Kyle Gallery calendar

lifetime and in Paul Gell's opinion are "the main consideration when looking for a new garden". He enlarged a window in his house to provide a better view of the huge old cherry, the rare cultivar Tai Haku, the Japanese great white cherry.

He has planted a willow leaved pear (nowadays much more readily available), which is kept pruned so that the wavy silver foliage shows itself to best advantage. On a grassy slope, he has established a small orchard, and another part of the garden has elder and other native trees ranged round a small meadow.

In his paintings Paul Gell conveys the vibrancy and colour of each individual flower, the exact quality of leaf and petal, the odd character of a wiry cork-screwing sweet-pea stem. Yet he never takes a sketch-book into the garden, only rarely "jams some flowers into a jar in the studio". His work is a distillation of his impressions as he walks and

works in his garden. Fittingly the book of his paintings is called *Flowers from a Painter's Garden*.

Paul Gell's work may be viewed at the New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13, and at the DM Gallery, 31 Dover Street, London W1 from the end of the month.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Clear up garden debris (including windfall fruit) to avoid overwintering pests and diseases and clean and store bamboo canes.
- Watch for the prevalent grey mould (*Botrytis*) on greenhouse grapes — ensure that there is a good airflow.
- Lift maincrop potatoes and store dry, in sacks.
- Green tomatoes ripen well if wrapped individually in newspaper.
- Test early apples and pears for ripeness.
- Protect the emerging leaves of *Cyclamen hederifolium* from slugs.

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THE TIMES COOK

A stalk on the wild side

The current rage for wild mushrooms is all very well, but it is dashed frustrating for those who cannot lay their hands on anything more exotic than a well-bred button or a cultivated flap. A couple of other varieties, oyster and shitake mushrooms, are grown for the market, but the more exotic wild mushrooms, fat, flavoured cepes, and apricot-scented chanterelles, are as hard to come by as fresh truffles.

Fresh mushrooms from the fields give Shona Crawford Poole some savoury ideas for stuffings and fillings



For the filling
30g (1oz) melted butter
1 small onion, finely chopped
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
3 eggs, separated
30g (1oz) fresh breadcrumbs
225g (8oz) open mushrooms

Melt the butter in a wide pan and cook the onion slowly until it is soft, but not coloured. Add the mushrooms and cook them gently until they have given off their reabsorbed their liquid. Season the mixture and leave it to cool before stirring in the egg yolks.

Whisk the egg whites to a stiff meringue and fold it into the mushroom mixture, followed by the breadcrumbs.

To assemble the strudels, lay a sheet of the paper-thin pastry on a clean surface and brush it with melted butter. Take one sixth of the filling mixture and lay it in a bar about 10cm/4 inches long in the middle of one short edge of the dough. Dribble a teaspoonful of melted butter over the filling and roll up the pastry very loosely to allow the filling to expand, making two or three turns before folding the sides in over the filling, and rolling to the end of the strip. Form the remaining strudels the same way.

Whether you got drenched in dew picking big open field mushrooms, that must be eaten quickly before they self-destruct, or picked up a pack of perfectly cultivated open mushrooms from the supermarket, stuffing them is irresistible. The filling can be as simple as a "snail" butter loaded with finely chopped garlic and parsley, or something more inventive. This kidney stuffing comes from Californian restaurateur Alice Waters in whose *Chez Panisse Cookbook* it embellishes boned shoulder or roast spring lamb.

Roast mushrooms
Serves four
4 large open mushrooms
2 tablespoons virgin olive oil
For the stuffing
170g (6oz) lamb's kidneys
2 tablespoons virgin olive oil

Divide the stuffing between the prepared mushrooms and roast them in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 10 to 15 minutes. The exact time will depend on the size of the mushrooms.

Salt and pepper
45g (1½oz) day-old bread cut into ½ inch cubes
2 sprigs parsley
2 sprigs thyme
1 sprig marjoram
2 cloves garlic

Wipe the mushrooms but do not peel them. Trim the stalks level with the caps. Brush them all over with the oil and arrange them in one layer in an oven-proof dish.

To make the stuffing, trim the kidneys and rinse them well in cold water. Cut them into 1cm (3/8 inch) dice. Sauté the kidneys in the oil over a medium heat for two or three minutes. Season with salt and pepper and mix with the diced bread, stem and roughly chop the herbs and add them to the stuffing together with the finely chopped garlic, salt and pepper.

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BRIDGE

The pair with flair

Beware stylish bids says Jeremy Flint

Rose and Smolski had their moments in the International Trials, but their similarity of style proved a predictable handicap. The ideal bridge partnership should be composed of a pitcher and a catcher. Rose and Smolski, both enormously talented card players, tend to rely on flair in the bidding rather than a quest for pinpoint accuracy. So, now and again, there is a ride on a roller coaster.

Later this month, Roman Smolski will represent Great Britain in the Pairs Olympiad in Miami, playing with Henry Beth. Beth, an American by birth, has established the required residential status by living in England for the past two years. Smolski and Beth have already achieved some exceptional results, and I have high hopes that their partnership will continue to flourish.

Here they are in action in the Harold Foster Cup, the main event of the EBU summer meeting, which attracted an entry of over 500 pairs.

Love All Dealer South



A heart ruffed with the ♠A obliged West to underuff. When Smolski played his last diamond, West could make his ♠Q, then or later, but he could not defeat the slam.

Against this skillful line of play, West's five trumps were as innocuous as tin tacks under a steam roller.

EATING OUT

Legendary lunch

Fitzrovia used to be a more raffish, less sleazy Soho. It's not like that now; Bohemia died more than two decades ago. The Ad World has taken over. It is from here that the nation's minds are manipulated by persons wearing spectacle frames the colour of winegums, and driving any car as long as it's a D-reg Porsche with a spoiler. If you don't believe me, go to Chez Gerard, where careworn "creatives" reward themselves after a morning's exhausting graft.

The meat here is higher quality than is usual in similar restaurants there, but the prices are higher. It is grilled on charcoal and the best value is in those chunks - ribs or Chateaubriand - which serve two people.

I ate the Friday dish of the Midi, aioli (garlic mayonnaise) with salt cod, boiled potatoes and baby turnips; the fish was as good as one is likely to get in this country - and showed that Chez Gerard can cater for those who are not 100 per cent carnivores. £38 for two.

Auntie's is a cruel warning to copywriters not to fall in Adland. If they do, they'll have to take out a living composing whimsical names for dishes that deserve better. Colonel's curried egg mayonnaise, Tweed kettle pie, Nanny Campbell's basic lemon fluff.

Still, I shouldn't let this detract from what is a pleasant and original establishment. The cooking is as the names indicate, is English, but it's done with unusual flair. One starter was the *ne plus ultra* of old-fashioned tea-room crab;

another was a salad of smoked chicken that included daisies (sounds twee, tastes good); a third was a rather Baltic mix of soured herring, potato, apple and sour cream.

The £12.50 set menu offers six main courses, of which the above-mentioned Tweed kettle pie was outstanding - salmon and leek in a butter sauce with a light pastry top.

Also trout cooked in paper, which is a way of achieving the effect of foil, without making the table look like a take-away; and steak with "trunklemeats", in other words mustard, a home-made horseradish cream and so on. Vegetables are first-rate and so are the English cheeses. About £40 for two.

Jonathan Meades
Chez Gerard, 5 Charlotte Street, London W1 (01-636 4975). Open Sun-Fri 12.30-2.30pm and daily 6-11pm. Auntie's, 126 Cleveland Street, London W1 (01-387 1548). Open Mon-Fri noon-9pm, 6-11pm; Sat 6-11pm.

Chess
Russian revolution

In this series of articles on challengers for the world championship, that great Russian, Mikhail Tichgorin, stands out as the supreme revolutionary. At a time when the theories of the all-powerful Steinitz insisted that the Evans Gambit was unsound, and that in the Queen's Pawn Openings it was illegal to block the "c" pawn, Tichgorin espoused both antitheses with vigour. He contested numerous Evans Gambits with Steinitz and introduced the defence 1 d4 d5 2 c4 Nc6.

This is still considered dubious, though Tony Miles came close earlier this year to registering an upset defeat against Karpov, using Tichgorin's invention. Finally, Tichgorin pioneered 1... Nf6 as an answer to 1 d4. This was anathema to the classicists who argued that 1 d4 must be parried with 1... d5. Interestingly, Karpov has a poor record against Kasparov after 1 d4 Nf6, but has performed respectably when he defends with 1 d4 d5.

Here is a game from the second of Tichgorin's titanic struggles with Steinitz.

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Chess

Russian revolution

White: Tichgorin; Black: Steinitz

1892
1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bc4 Bc5
4 d4 d5
5 Nxd5 Nxd5
6 Bb5 Nc6
7 Qc2 Qd6
8 Nc3 Nf6
9 Bg5 Nd7
10 Bxd7 Qxd7
11 Qd2 Qc7
12 Nf4 Nc6
13 Bc4 Bc5
14 Qd3 Qd6
15 Nc3 Nf6
16 Bg5 Nd7
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26 Nf4 Nc6
27 Bc4 Bc5
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29 Nc3 Nf6
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Paperbacks

REVIEW

ON THE AIR

Secret formula for writing a best seller

Writing a Thriller by André Jute (Adam & Charles Black, £4.95); The Craft of Writing Romance by Jean Saunders (Allison & Busby, £2.95); Writing Crime Fiction by H. R. F. Keating (Adam & Charles Black, £4.95)

A myth exists that writing can't be taught. Perhaps it has been put about by writers themselves, jealously guarding the mystique of their craft, despite all the creative writing courses at universities in America and here at post-graduate level.

This last piece of information comes from Writing a Thriller by André Jute, who also tells us trenchantly that the difference between the leading practitioner and a mere journeyman lies mostly in the application each brings to his craft.

None of these writers leaves us in doubt that the creating of fiction, genre fiction at any rate, can be learnt. All are shy of recipes, of the novel by technology out of formula. All acknowledge that the desire to do it has got to be there, some kind of vital spark. And André Jute says that the thriller is now a respectable genre.

Well, maybe... but whatever he may do for aspiring, as yet unpublished, writers he is very support-

ive of the rest of us genre fictionists, going about as we do with chips on our shoulders. For those who are beginning, he has plenty of good advice. "Don't use names from the telephone book", he directs, "a weather eye on libel risks. Use town names from the back of a gazetteer."

My own method exactly, Watson. A good deal of the enjoyment I derived from these books was finding recommended so many things I do myself and, perhaps naively, thought I was alone in doing. Though I must say I never considered not having

It is also quite a tough manual of instruction. A hero, for instance, should be slightly older than the heroine. Characters must offer something to the story, i.e. to the furtherance of romance. "To bring in an interesting Spanish waiter just because you've been on holiday to Majorca... is not sufficient."

Names are important, but "a vile-sounding name like Teak" Miss Saunders considers too gimmicky. Teak? It opens up such possibilities. How about Mahogany or Hornbeam? Or would that be encroaching on

Rome? Since I am mentioned perhaps I should declare an interest, but so are a host of crime writers whose work Keating advises his readers to study - surely the best way to learn.

He also gives one of the most perceptive definitions I have come across of the difference between crime writing and pure novels. The former puts readers and their entertainment first, the latter primarily expresses the feelings of the writer.

An indomitable will is what the aspiring writer will need, says Jute. Keating points out the importance of luck and Saunders of a sincere belief in the seriousness of romance.

When dealing with sexual matters, writers must not allow themselves to be inhibited by what their relatives may think. Never mind Great Aunt Ethel's blushes. Don't muffle the excitement in action scenes advises Keating, admirably quoting Graham Greene with similes and metaphors. Be tough on those adjectives that will creep in.

I see these books as a private godsend. I shall recommend them to those who ask me how to write fiction instead of posting off the long and possibly not very helpful essays I used to produce on the craft. And stop saying it can't be taught, which is perhaps itself only a romantic fantasy.

Ruth Rendell

The desire to do it has got to be there - some vital spark

social workers, miners or missionaries among my characters on the grounds that such people aren't exciting enough.

Jute is great on building tension and on telling a story through snappy dialogue. I especially like the simple command: "Pass me the grapping iron, quick man", he shouted.

We have all experienced love. Jean Saunders tells us, though how many have direct knowledge of espionage or murder? The Craft of Writing Romance is all about love and, indeed, chapter one is called "Loving Your Genre".

Lord of the Rings country: a quite different region on the genre map?

With the change in women's status, a heroine may have an interesting job, and it is worth the writer's while to spend time researching unusual callings. Not a sewage engineer though, says H. R. F. Keating, who "is hardly going to appeal to the escapist element in your readership".

Writing Crime Fiction is enormously entertaining - I am tempted to say at least as readable as many of the crime novels it cites. Can there really once have been a series featuring a slave detective of Ancient

The flower power of Oxford

Oxford Garden by Mavis Bates (Scolar Press/Gower Publishing, £3.50)

Asked what Oxford contributed to the history and civilization of this country, one could be forgiven for not thinking of its influence on gardens. But to neglect how members of the university influenced the development of ideas about garden design and content and, at the same time, responded uniquely to the mood and ideals of successive periods, would be to miss a significant area of interest.

Mavis Bates's book is a history of gardens and gardeners at Oxford from medieval times to the present day. In it, she covers all aspects of the life of the university which have influenced garden history in its widest sense.

We meet eccentric inhabitants, like the college president who called his dog a cat in order to get round regulations, and delight in the eccentric solutions these inhabitants found to the problems of their day.

What more perfect answer could there be to the dilemma of not wishing to charge an entrance fee for the charity performance of Alice in Wonderland, staged in Worcester College garden, than that offered by Lewis Carroll himself - to charge the audience to leave? Or who could fail to delight in the story of the ivy at Magdalen that foud its way into the cellars and consumed the Fellows' port?

More seriously, the book is particularly interesting where its author considers Oxford in Commonwealth and Restoration times, when the university was ablaze with the new empiricism. Both garden design and the study of new plants that arrived in significant numbers from abroad were felt to be of central importance to the new philosophy.

It is perhaps worthwhile



Worcester College: a 19th-century engraving showing the Provost's Lodgings looking like a Palladian house

considering when, and why, horticulture lost its position at the centre of the stage and when gardens ceased to reflect the spirit of the age.

It was the Picturesque Movement which first distanced the observer looking for an effect, rather than a truth. Certainly it is difficult today to detect the influence of such sure guiding hands as those so admirably portrayed here. College archives, it seems, are the last repositories of more ambitious schemes for college gardens than were ever approved by the Fellows.

How different, for example, Cambridge would have looked, had Capability Brown's grand scheme for a lake behind King's College been carried out. Predictably, the other colleges were not particularly interested in co-operating as they were assigned a subsidiary role while King's was the "country house".

Strong characters, in a university setting, make the

best gardeners, being the only people capable of getting things done. One was the redoubtable Miss Annie Rogers, who, single-handed, because she wanted it that way, created the gardens at St. Hugh's.

It was said that when she visited the Bidder rock garden at St. John's, "College porters were warned that although a blind eye might be turned on an odd snip here and there, if Miss Rogers was seen to appear with her umbrella, a favourite receptacle for cuttings, she must on no account be left on her own."

For anyone with an interest in garden history or the history of Oxford, this is an

essential book although those not entirely familiar with the layout of every court and quad would have welcomed more maps and plans. And a closer watch by the publishers would have spotted the few incorrect spellings of Latin names that irk in a book such as this.

Ruth Stungo

Jokes left a blank feeling

Taking Off, An anthology of parodies, send-ups and imitations, edited by Tim Dowley (Methuen, £4.95)

I was sitting outside a café near Harrods, pondering on this book of parodies, when along burst Billy Connolly. "I used to write that sort of thing", he said. So we looked up Connolly in the index, but discovered only Cyril and his ineffectual send-up of James Bond.

"The thing about parody", said Billy, "is that it doesn't work unless you love what you're parodying." I found this was true when I turned to Miles Kingdon's affectionately-written Radio 4 dialogue between Richard Baker and Kenneth Robinson. In just a few lines Miles had put a tired 15-year-old relationship into perspective - as a sort of unliking man's Laurel and Hardy.

Robinson: "I certainly have, Richard." Very rarely do you get such a vivid picture of total lack of communication. Though Tony Hendra does well here, too, with his glimpse of a man desperately trying to get in touch with his saviour. "O rare and bloody Jesus, I love Thy blood so red. I loved you when you were alive. I love you better dead."

There is certainly no love in the writing of that sardonic overstatement of Christian belief. But it is not a genuine parody. Nor is Private Eye's day in the after-life of Malcolm Muggeridge, who boasts of having lunch in heaven with Pope Paul VI, Victor Silvester and Doris Waters - "a lovely lady whose life was spent in what I gather is called 'show business'".

The parody fails, because Malcolm has never behaved like those dotty old magistrates who feign ignorance of worldly matters. Good parodies have to be both loving and accurate. That is certainly not true of Paul Griffin's cruel and pointless "Christopher Robin is draw-

ing his pension. He suffers from chronic bronchitis and tension". But it is true of a piece by Sheridan Morley, who has written an hilarious excerpt of Pinter's The Caretaker in the style of Private Lives. ("Very flat, Sidcup.")

I was thinking how well that review could apply to the Bible, Shakespeare and Jeffrey Archer, when I found Michael Palin was being even more Pythonesque than he knew.

In spite of the praiseworthy amount the book manages to fit in, it still has 45 blank pages. So maybe it also deserves high praise for what it manages to leave out.

Assembling a star cast that any West End theatre manager would envy, Radio 3 presents the British premiere of The Compromise (Friday, 7.30-9.05pm) by the Hungarian dissident, Istvan Eorsi.

It is a piece from the heart, an angry exploration of the limits to free expression in a totalitarian regime by one who became a "prohibited" playwright in his own country and was later deprived of his professional status.

Ronald Pickup is the writer. Zoltan, who after eight years of labour has produced his 1,200-page history of post-1956 Hungary. As he lies in a hospital bed, likely soon to die, his book is acclaimed as a work of genius.

But at the time the authorities are demanding cuts and alterations. Will the ailing Zoltan compromise and "leave the world a masterpiece" or will the book remain unaltered and unpublished?

Juliet Stevenson plays Zoltan's actress wife, with John Hurt as a playwright who has designs on her. Bernard Hepton and Hugh Dickson represent officialdom.

There is more international drama tomorrow when the Globe Theatre production

and the legitimacy of the whole endeavour can hardly remain unquestioned. That Mr Raine has made a career of adaptation, often basing his poems on Russian models, does not in itself make him any less original than, say, Virgil. Yet literary innovation - or quality - is not so much a matter of "what" as of "how"; and this is where Mr Raine's method amounts to colossal failure.

The Last Summer, Pasternak's vaguely autobiographical novella on which Mr Raine's libretto is based, is a miracle of poetic prose whose salient feature is its near-cryptic subtlety. For his effort, Mr Raine "hit on the notion of an octosyllabic line" which is "both shapely and colloquial". Indeed, his hero tells a woman that her "slow nipples gather closely in the cold" (he goes on to list her other enchantments), to which she replies, "my breasts aren't bad".

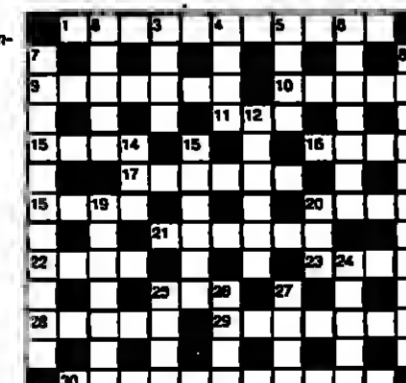
On the whole, the exchange would be jarring in a Dreigroschenoper: in an opera about Pasternak it's idiotic. By obviating the poet's prose to focus on the "plot" of the novella - which he invents, since there really isn't much of one - Mr Raine makes his hero into a "Russian" puppet, mouthing "poetic" platitudes eight syllables too long for anyone's ear. The only electricity here comes from Pasternak turning in his coffin, although not enough to illumine a murky poetry scene.

Andrei Navrozov

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1059

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions to this crossword, September 25, 1986. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Fenington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, September 27, 1986.

- ACROSS: 1 Corrupt political centre (1,4); 9 Absorb (7); 10 Chance taker (5); 11 Bond (3); 12 Luster (4); 16 Call (4); 17 Bass (6); 18 Tooth et alation (4); 20 Chaotic state (4); 21 Padding, lake (4); 22 Coptic bishop (4); 23 Rip (4); 25 Tins (3); 26 Meal prayer (5); 27 Seat cushions (7); 29 First holy Roman Emperor (11)



- DOWN: 2 Standpoint (5); 3 Debatable (4); 4 Cross place (4); 5 Bird-watcher's hut (4); 6 Produce milk (7); 7 Submarine bomb (5); 8 Thinker's panel (6,5); 12 Devote (6); 14 Blame (3); 15 Basic (6); 19 Seventh day (7); 20 Encountered (3); 24 Impass (5); 25 Cloth (4); 26 Heavy fencing sword (4); 27 Developing insect (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1058 ACROSS: 1 Entomb; 5 Addict; 8 As; 9 Sector; 10 Scarab; 11 Beam; 12 Quisling; 14 Sentence; 17 Jumble; 19 Jeroboam; 22 Glee; 24 bluish; 25 Apache; 26 Vim; 27 Scythe; 28 Sketch; DOWN: 2 Niece; 3 Ottoman; 4 Baroque; 5 Assa; 6 Drawl; 7 Charm; 13 Sore; 15 Euc; 16 Cab; 17 Jumps; 18 Migrate; 20 Oset; 21 Olive; 23 Ethic

SOLUTION TO NO 1057 (last Saturday's prize concise) ACROSS: 1 Pas-de-Calais; 9 Uacivil; 10 Draco; 11 Leo; 13 Near; 16 Mias; 17 Newler; 18 Ills; 20 Mite; 21 Indigo; 22 Loin; 23 Oboe; 25 Cal; 26 Orion; 29 Irem; 30 Immortalize; DOWN: 1 Aera; 3 Dove; 4 Call; 5 Lido; 6 Imagine; 7 Quittance; 8 Vaucaestic; 12 Emvne; 14 RMS; 15 Ruanda; 19 Laticum; 20 Nuo; 24 Blitz; 25 Onto; 26 Kilt; 27 Opal

Name: Address:



Teacher's pet: Mandy Miller with Jack Hawkins and Phyllis Calvert

When silence spoke a thousand words

In the career of the best Ealing director, Alexander Mackendrick, Mandy (Channel 4, tomorrow, 10.55pm-12.40am) is the odd film out, the only non-comedy among credits that included Whisky Galore!, The Man in the White Suit and The Killers.

Mackendrick's pictures were distinguished from other Ealing comedies by their cutting edge. They were not the cosy, complacent studies of a more or less meretricious England that Ealing usually produced.

Mandy, made in 1952, is not only Mackendrick's only excursion into Ealing drama but superficially his most conventional film, the quasi-documentary story of how a deaf and dumb child is treated for her affliction wrapped up in a banal family saga.

But a careful look at Mandy reveals that it has the same depth and insight that Mackendrick brought to his other work. This can be traced most obviously in the portrait of Mandy's father (played by Terence Morgan).

While Mandy has a direct physical handicap, her father has a less telling emotional and psychological one. This comes to the surface during the rift between himself and

FILMS ON TV

his wife (Phyllis Calvert) over whether Mandy should attend a special school. Daffodil, but blinkered, he is adamant that Mandy should stay apart from other children, and have a private governess, while Mandy's mother takes the opposite view. The marriage itself comes under strain and relationships further deteriorate when the father accuses his wife of having an affair with Mandy's teacher (Jack Hawkins).

The gradual rehabilitation of Mandy takes place against this background and in an ironic way there seems more hope in the end for the child than her parent. There are two battles in the film. One is Mandy's against her handicap. The second is the wife's

and the teacher's against the father. Thematic considerations aside, the impact of the film derives in large part from the remarkable performance of the eight-year-old with the Chinese eyes and pogy cheeks, Mandy Miller. Her performance, like the film which was named after her, completely avoids the pitfall of sentimentality.

The screening of Mandy is linked to a series called Fifities Features (Channel 4, 5.15-6pm) which looks at the position of women in the British cinema during the post-war era. Mandy Miller and Phyllis Calvert talk about Mandy and there are contributions from the few women - Wendy Toye, Marjorie Box - who made it to the director's chair.

Peter Waymark

RECOMMENDED

The Eagle (Channel 4, Wed, 9-10.30pm) is another in the series of silent classics restored by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill and given a new score by Carl Davis. It is being shown on the 60th anniversary of the death of its star, Rudolph Valentino. Made in 1925, The Eagle

signalled Valentino's return to the screen after an absence of two years. He plays a Cossack lieutenant who turns bandit to avenge the seizure of his father's lands, a good bad man in the tradition of Robin Hood and Zorro, only to fall in love with his enemy's daughter. The director was Clarence Brown, later to make his name with Greta Garbo.

Death takes a back seat

TELEVISION

There are few better subjects for black comedy than a dead body that cannot be disposed of. Hitchcock used it in The Trouble With Harry and Lesley Bruce returns to the theme in Shift Work (BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.20 pm).

Maureen Lipman plays Julie, a single parent with three children who makes ends meet by driving a mini cab. But she is not properly insured and loses her job, though she is given one last fare: an Arab who inconveniently expires en route from Heathrow.

Being the middle of the night the mortuary is closed, and a hospital refuses to help. Despite some improbabilities, it is a nicely diverting piece that knows exactly how long to keep the joke going. Furthermore, it is based on a real life incident.

Talking of Hitchcock, Omnibus starts a two-part profile of him on Friday (BBC1, 10.25-11.30 pm). Fans may not find very much that is new, but it is a lively and informative introduction to the man who, Francois Truffaut once said, shot murders like love scenes and love scenes like murders.

There is, thank goodness, little theorizing about inner motives. Instead, the programme tries to bring out, through the testimony of actors and writers, what it was like to be involved in the making of a Hitchcock film.

Thus we have James Stewart on Rear Window, Teresa



Dead end: Arab Tony Allef and cabbie Maureen Lipman

Wright on Shadow of a Doubt and Joan Fontaine on Rehearsal. There are examples of Hitchcock's penchant for cruel jokes and it seems that the stories about his liking to humiliate actresses were not too wide of the mark.

The problem for the makers of The Story of English (BBC2, Mon, 8.05-9 pm) was how to make a visual series about the abstract concepts of words and language. As anyone familiar with television techniques might have guessed, the solution was to tell the story through people and places.

The opening programme (of nine) explores the proposition that English has been more influential than any language the world has known, looks at the surprising survival of En-

glish in the former colonial territories and shows how new words are being created from such diverse sources as feminism and the computer.

The archive series Travellers in Time returns on Wednesday (BBC2, 7.30-8 pm) with the story of the Turkestan to Siberia railway built in the late 1920s. It was a heroic feat of early Soviet planning, and was recorded in a famous documentary film, Turkestan.

Most of BBC2 this evening (from 5.20 pm) and tomorrow (until 6 am) is devoted to the annual music marathon, Rock Around the Clock. The bill includes a Rock Lookalike competition and footage from the first edition, 15 years ago, of The Old Grey Whistle Test.

P.W.

When free expression costs dear

RADIO



Rival in love: John Hurt

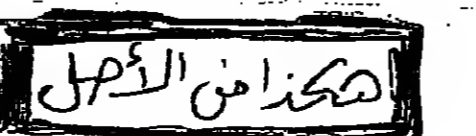
(Radio 4, 2.30-4pm) is Luigi Pirandello's Six Characters in Search of an Author. Charles Gray, Yvonne Bryceland and Cherie Lunghi star in the teasing story of characters in a

play who have been abandoned by their creator. In Figures in a Landscape (Radio 4, Mon, 8.43-9am) Don Haworth, radio playwright and producer of the award-winning television film, Fred Dibnah, Steeplejack, evokes his 1920s childhood in Lancashire. Stephen Thorne reads the first of 10 extracts from Haworth's gentle, evocative memoir which has just been published by Methuen (£9.95).

James Tuttle's documentary, More Than Pantomime Warfare (Radio 4, 8.30-9pm) recalls the extraordinary Dogger Bank affair of October 1904 when British trawlers in the North Sea were fired upon by four Russian battleships. Linked to Russia's humiliating defeat by the Japanese at the other end of the world, the incident sparked off a diplomatic crisis.

It's a Fanny Business returns tomorrow (Radio 2, 7.30pm) with more helpings of showbusiness nostalgia when Mike Craig talks to Alf Pearson, of the singing duo, Bob and Alf Pearson. Future guests include Ben Warriss and Elsie Waters.

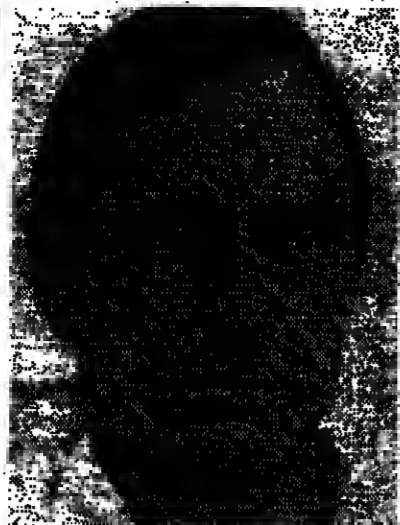
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THE WEEK AHEAD



BOOKS
COME TO GRIEF: Paul Bailey, in his new novel, *Gabriel's Lamant* (published on Thursday by Jonathan Cape, £9.95) offers a funny and horrifying picture of eccentric English life from the early 1940s to the present. Gabriel's grief follows a strange bequest from his father.



THEATRE
LIVING KAFKA: Geoffrey Palmer, the lugubrious face of many of the television sitcom, plays the central figure of Alan Bennett's *Kafka's Dick*, a writer who idolizes Kafka and lives his life through him. With Alison Steadman. Royal Court (01-730 5174), from Tuesday after previews.



OPERA
LONDON WELSH: Brian McMaster, who has shaped the Welsh National Opera for the last decade as its general administrator, brings the company to Covent Garden for the first time with a complete *Ring cycle*. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066), from Thursday.



TELEVISION
PRIVATE LIVES: The Prince and Princess of Wales are the subject of a two-part ITV profile presented by Alastair Burnet. For the first time the cameras were allowed behind the scenes to catch their off-duty moments. Tomorrow, 7.45-8.50pm, and Monday, 7.30-8.30pm.



FILMS
GREEK TRAGEDY: Kate Nelligan stars with John Malkovich in *Eleanor* (PG), the true story of an American journalist's search for the truth about his mother's death during the Greek civil war of the 1940s. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), from Friday.



CONCERTS
GLASS EYES: Philip Glass, the guru of systems music, brings his ensemble back to London with excerpts from his opera *Einstein on the Beach* and *Akhmatov*, plus music written for the choreographer Twyla Tharp. Royal Albert Hall (01-589 8212), Friday.

TIMES CHOICE

FILMS OPENINGS

OTELLO (U): Verdi's opera, sympathetically transferred to the screen by Franco Zeffirelli, with Plácido Domingo (Otello), Kiri Te Kanawa (Desdemona), Justo Diaz (Iago) and much location camerawork. Lorin Maazel conducts. ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 8279), from Tues.

THE LEGEND OF THE SURAM FORTRESS (U): Sergei Paradjanov, the Georgian director of *The Colour of Pomegranates*, returns after years of silence with a beautiful, cryptic version of a Georgian legend about the construction of a fortress. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), from Fri.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT (18): Lightweight study in the mating habits of young Americans, derived - at a polite distance - from David Mamet's one-act play *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*. Edward Zwick directs Rob Lowe, Demi Moore, Jim Belushi. Warner West End (01-439 0791), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), from Fri.

SELECTED

TROUBLE IN MIND (15): Alan Rudolph's playful, strenuously stylish thriller, with Kris Kristofferson as an ex-cop with a past, mixed up with drinkers and drinkers. Screen on the Green (01-226 3520), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310).

THE DECLINE OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE (18): Satirical Canadian comedy, centred round a dinner party for sex-obsessed academics; directed by Denys Arcand. One of the hits at Cannes. Fenrir (01-837 8422), Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

MONA LISA (18): Neil Jordan's off-beat comedy-drama, with



Bob Hoskins (above) in fine form as the bemused chauffeur to a high-class prostitute. *Ocean* Haymarket (01-830 2738).

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

A BETROTHAL: Ben Kingsley and Geraldine James in the world premiere of a play by Lanford Wilson, directed by Alison Sutcliffe. Late nights only, at one of the smallest theatres in London. The Man in the Moon, 392 Kings Road, London SW3 (01-351 2876). Previews Fri, Sep 27, 28. Opens Sep 30.

OPENINGS

THE MAGISTRATE: Pinero farce, directed by Michael Rudman, with Nigel Hawthorne, Gemma Craven, Nicholas Le Prevost, Graeme Henderson, Frank Lazarus, Alison Fiske, Jeffrey Wickham. Lyttelton (01-928 2252). Previews Mon, Tues. Opens Wed. In repertory. Thurs, Fri.

OUR LADY: The Women's Theatre Group in a "blasphemous thriller" by Deborah Levy. Three present-day women claim to be Our Lady. They are tried for heresy by a representative of the Holy Inquisition, summoned from the 15th century. London premiere. Orii Hall Arts Centre, 16 Chanies Street, London WC1 (01-637 8270). Opens Tues.

TALK TO ME: William Humble's play about

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Three further performances of *The Snow Queen*, this afternoon, this evening and Mon, conclude the company's short London season. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

MICHAEL CLARK: The new show continues for one more week in London before

theme of the bullfight. Warwick Arts Trust, 33 Warwick Square, London SW1 (01-834 7856) from Wed.

WEIMAR CERAMICS: Loan exhibition from the National Museum, Nuremberg of ceramics influenced by Bauhaus teaching. The Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington (01-589 6371) from Wed.

SELECTED

JULIAN SCHNABEL: A decade of painting by the controversial New York artist. Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 (01-377 0107).

PICASSO: Excerpts from the 175 personal sketchbooks kept by the master. The Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 9052).

CAPITAL GAINS: Archaeological survey of London resulting from recent research. Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (01-600 3699).

CONCERTS

ELLY AMELING: Singing many Ravel songs, some Debussy. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

CLAUDIO ARRAU: In Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 4 with the LSO. Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos also conducts Debussy's *Nocturnes* and the 1919 version of Stravinsky's *Firebird*. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 8891). Today, 7.45pm.

TIPPETT'S CHILD: The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Chorus and soloists under Sir Neville Marriner interpret Tippett's *Child of Our Time* and his Corvelli *Fantasia Concertante*. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800). Tues, 7.30pm.

EAST OF VIENNA: The Nash Ensemble plays Denisov's *Sextet*, Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. Wigmore Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

MORE MAHLER: Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No 8, which takes up the whole concert. Royal Festival Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

SHOSTAKOVICH'S 80TH: Maxim Shostakovich conducts his 80th birthday concert. Age of Gold Suite, Symphony No 15, Lynn Harrell solos in Cello Concerto No 1, all to mark the 80th anniversary of the composer's birth. Barbican Centre, Thurs, 7.45pm.

LONDON PIANO: A gala concert to launch the London International Piano Competition finds Sir Colin Davis conducting the ECO in Mozart's G minor Symphony K 550. Radio Lulu soloing in the C minor Concerto K 451. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thurs, 7.45pm.

PREVIN/RPO: André Previn takes the RPO through Rossini's *Italiana in Algeri* Overture, Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2, and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall, Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: The last cut-price preview performance on Tues at 7.30pm of Jonathan Miller's new, un-Japanese *Mitridate*; then the first night on Sep 27, with Richard Angus in the title role, supported by Richard Van Allan as Pooth Bah and Lesley Garrett as Yum-Yum. Peter Robinson conducts. Two performances of Miller's rather heavy-handed *Figaro* on Wed and Fri at 7pm, and two last chances to see *Il trovatore* tonight and Thurs at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

OPERA NORTHERN IRELAND: A new season with new artistic management is underway, with *Ariadne on Naxos* tonight, Wed, and Fri, with Rita Culkin, Nan Christie, Eddwen Harrity, Kenneth Woolham and Geoffrey Dolton. Then on Tues, Thurs and Sep 27, Christopher Renshaw's new production of Verdi's *Faust*, conducted by Kenneth Montgomery, with Helen Walker and Patrick Power. All performances start at 7.30pm. Grand Opera, Belfast (0232 241919).

GALLERIES

PUBLIC ARTISTS: A week when Birmingham's contemporary artists put on exhibitions and open their studios to the public. All over Birmingham. For information: 73c Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham (021 449 5959) from today until next Sunday.

CONTRARIWISSE: Major exhibition of Surrealist art, including painting, sculpture, photography, film and television, right through to advertisements today. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Alexandra Road, Swansea, (0792 55006) from today.

TAUROMAQUIA: Sixty prints by Goya and Picasso on the

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE
LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Postal bookings opened this week, for new ballet by Stephen Davies and London premiere of *Interrogations* and *Ceremony*. Nov 18-Dec 6. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1. (01-278 8916).

BACH AND THE CITIES OF EUROPE: Series of concerts by London Bach Orchestra, tracing Bach's music through his travels to Leipzig.

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Films: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Concerts: Max Harrison; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

The princess and a panto pumpkin



Imelda Staunton tells a good tale against herself. In younger, rounder days, when her now slender 5ft frame weighed in at 9 stone 11lb, she attempted to take to the air in Exeter as a replete Cinderella. As her partner in levitation strained to raise her to greater heights, a loud groan of sympathy came from the audience.

But worse was to follow. Persuaded by a fellow performer to delight a little girl in the foyer who was demanding to meet Cinderella herself, she approached the young supplicant and revealed her pantomime identity. The child, looking as though she was faced with a pumpkin rather than a fairy princess, burst into tears of disbelief. I, too, had difficulty in recognizing Imelda Staunton, only the morning after I had seen her play the leading role of Bess Bridges in the Royal Shakespeare Company's latest riotous production, *The Fair Maid of the West*. The two parts of Thomas Heywood's comic Elizabethan "epic" have been cut and cobbled together, with songs added to taste, and given the run-around of every aisle and gallery in Stratford's splendid new theatre, the Swan.

On stage Miss Staunton's hair was kept tamed, in tune with her controlled, neat presence - ever ready to make great leaps in tone or motion but on her terms. Off stage, with pale skin and bright blue eyes, she was dwarfed by a savage abundance of pale russet hair, resplendent in its havoc like a trampled ripe harvest. The effect was rather like that of Janis Joplin playing Medusa.

Imelda Staunton is far prettier than was Janis Joplin and very much less socially venomous than Medusa, but if there was ever an actor with the range to play both of them it is she. Since leaving RADA in 1976 her roles have included Electra and St Joan in Exeter; an acclaimed Pina in Nottingham; two stints as the nasally melodious Miss Adelaide in Richard Eyre's production of *Gyps and Dolls*

ARTS DIARY

Barred bard?

To be, or not to be? That is the question surrounding the future of the Globe Theatre at Southwark.

Despite an outright victory in the High Court earlier this year which allowed American actor/manager Sam Wanamaker to triumph over Southwark Council - they wanted to use his South Bank site for housing - the decision as to whether the theatre can actually be built has landed back in the council's hands. This is because Wanamaker's original planning application, to build a reproduction of Shakespeare's theatre, ran out of time, so he has to re-apply. And Southwark Council just so happens to be the planning authority to which he has to apply. Wanamaker says the council is itself out of time and therefore the Department of the Environment will have overall responsibility for settling the argument. I estimate it has so far cost Wanamaker 17 years of his life, and the council £9 million - in buying the land to thwart Wanamaker among other things - to reach this impasse.

Yes, no photo

Contributing if not artistically then at least materially to the art of photography, the Duke of York will be hanging about a West End street this morning while a plaque is unveiled on the wall of the Photographer's Gallery. Through his good offices Dr Hacking Wong of Halina Camera, has contributed £250,000 towards the purchase of a home for contemporary photography. Afterwards York will host a lunch for 200 at the Law Society to thank Dr Wong for his kindness, but although all eyes will be on the flame-haired Duchess there is a rigid rule: no cameras.

Don't say he doesn't explore the boundaries of art: David Hockney is currently at work using an entirely new artistic medium. It is the photocopier.

Luce talk

With all the arty begging bowls being polished following Richard Luce's chilling statement on Arts Council cuts last week, the Medici Quartet have come up with a spiffing weezer: after their performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on October 7, they intend to auction off the entire quartet of Beethoven. Sponsors will



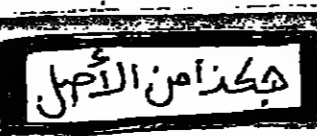
have their name attached to a particular quartet each time the Medici plays it over the next three or four years. Curiously the going rate depends on the quartet: there's a £1,500 minimum on Op 18, but a £3,500 minimum on Op 127. The Medici's explanation is fancy. "Some are more difficult than others to perform" but they are serious in their intent. "We hope to raise £40,000 which will then be matched pound for pound by the Government."

Court short

In 10 days' time the English Stage Company will celebrate 30 years at the Royal Court Theatre. But for how much longer will they be there? Their lease on the Sloane Square building, perched inconveniently over a hideously noisy tube station, ends in 1990 and there are dark mutterings within the company that they should move to a more contemporary (i.e. cheaper) spot. The current whim is for a warehouse in fashionable Covent Garden.

Kick Theatre COMPANY NOW OPEN UNTIL OCT 7
CORIOLANUS TREMENDOUS PRODUCTION
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For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. Films: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams; Opera: Hilary Finch; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Concerts: Max Harrison; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse



How to meet Tambo today

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Mr Oliver Tambo, acting head of the outlawed African National Congress, at Chevening, his official residence in Kent, this morning.

The meeting, announced yesterday, was immediately condemned as "appalling" and "disgraceful" by Conservative right-wingers who are to meet next week to decide on a response.

In the past the Government had always refused to meet the ANC until it renounced the use of violence.

In June the Government softened its line when Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Foreign Office Minister of State, became the first British minister to meet Mr Tambo. But two months ago ANC leaders refused to meet Sir Geoffrey in Lusaka during his EEC mission to southern Africa.

Today's meeting has come about after statements by Mr Tambo at the Non-Aligned summit in Harare last month to the effect that he would be happy to meet Sir Geoffrey provided it was out in the context of that mission.

Officially the invitation has come from Sir Geoffrey, who is saying that he still wishes to hear from as wide a range of opinion within South Africa as possible.

But the meeting has enraged Tory right-wingers. Mr John Carlisle, the MP for Luton North, said yesterday: "It is disgraceful that the British Foreign Secretary should demean himself by talking to members of a terrorist organisation."

However, Mr Hugh Dykes, the moderate MP for Harrow East and founder member of Conservatives for Fudameotal Reform in South Africa, said he was delighted about the meeting.

Sir Geoffrey is to stop for talks with the Governor and senior officials in Hong Kong next month on his way to China for the Queen's visit.

Russians count the ruinous cost of Chernobyl

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The crippling blow dealt to the Soviet economy by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster was officially acknowledged yesterday by Mr Boris Gostev, the Finance Minister, who said that total direct and indirect costs of the incident were now estimated at 2 billion roubles (£1.9 billion).

In addition, the minister told a special news conference that a total area of 950 square miles around the stricken reactor had been declared unfit for anything but the decontamination work now being carried out by special squads of soldiers assisted by volunteers from all parts of the Soviet Union. These workers were receiving twice their normal wage in lieu of danger money.

Due to the large amounts of compensation needed to assist some 135,000 evacuees who had lost both their homes and most of their possessions, plus ancillary costs including the construction of thousands of new homes, Mr Gostev disclosed that the state had already paid 500 million roubles (\$466 million) from the budget, and a further 100 million roubles from its insurance organisation. "And we are still spending", the minister said.

The high costs of the disaster which are continuing to rise daily as the huge clean-up operation continues — plus the slump in the world price of oil are blamed by Western experts for the Soviet Union's current dire shortage of hard currency.

This has caused new shortages of consumer products because it has reduced the ability to buy-in from abroad.

For the first time, Mr Gostev and four other leading Soviet officials split out in detail the enormous size of the rescue operation, which includes a follow-up medical programme for all the evacuees being carried out by a medical team of 5,000 Soviet physicians backed by a further 9,000 paramedics.

According to the Minister, who has borne much of the personal responsibility for finding the funds to cope with the disaster, all the evacuees have now been found new jobs.

Every family forced to flee will be given a free home or flat and a new commission has been established to adjudicate

Tough line by Reagan on Daniloff

Continued from page 1

in contested compensation claims, he said. Questioned about whether the Kremlin intended to pay compensation for damage caused by the nuclear fallout, Mr Gostev hinted strongly that although the matter was still being "debated", the final answer would be no.

The World Health Organisation has already said that no significant damage was caused to people in other countries," he replied. Mr Oleg Shchepin, a First Deputy Minister of Health, said that the death toll from the disaster remained at 31, with 11 of the 2,000 people initially admitted to hospitals still there.

He claimed that the Soviet authorities did not expect any further admissions from radiation sickness, but pointedly avoided any reference to WHO to establish accident service.

Copenhagen (Reuter) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) is to set up a European information service for nuclear accidents in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster. It is also to seek ways of improving international co-ordination to limit effects of radioactive fallout and will study fallout's effects on health.

fears expressed in the West that thousands of long-term cancer deaths may result from the disaster.

THE HAGUE: The Dutch Government has decided to postpone until 1988 a decision on whether to build more nuclear power plants in the wake of Chernobyl (AP reports).

Mr Ed Nijpels, the Environment Minister, told the Dutch Parliament's standing committee on the environment this week that the postponement move had been made because the Government wanted to await the outcome of a number of official inquiries set up after the disaster.

The postponement marks another episode in the continuing debate between the centre-right Coalition Government of Mr Ruud Lubbers and a once-strong anti-nuclear lobby, which flared up again after the Chernobyl accident.

missile warheads, and will instead propose a reduction closer to 30 per cent. The move would significantly close the gap between the US and Soviet positions on ballistic missile warheads.

The Shultz-Shevardnadze talks are not expected to produce a firm date for any summit meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, in Washington later this year. They are focusing on each country's arms control proposals, as well as disagreements on human rights issues and regional disputes like Afghanistan, with the aim of determining in principle if a summit would be fruitful.

Mr Shultz had made it clear that he would begin his talks with Mr Shevardnadze by demanding the early and unconditional release of Mr Daniloff, Moscow correspondent of US News & World Report, who was arrested on August 30 and later charged with espionage.

The Administration maintains that he was picked up in direct retaliation for the arrest last month of Mr Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations secretariat, who has been charged in New York with spying.

Mr Shevardnadze warned bluntly on arrival at Andrews Air Force base on Thursday that years of "confrontation and dangerous contention" might lie ahead if Washington and Moscow failed to make headway in the sessions. MOSCOW: The official Soviet government newspaper Izvestia last night launched a bitter personal attack on Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, for his comparison of the KGB's arrest of Mr Daniloff with the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl (Christopher Walker writes).

Soviet anger was provoked by Sir Geoffrey's observation during a visit to Washington last week that the arrest of Mr Daniloff, which both British and American officials here are convinced was "set up", was "a kind of moral Chernobyl which risks poisoning the whole field of East-West relations".

The tangled wreckage of Chernobyl: this photograph, taken three weeks ago, was released yesterday by Tass.

Solution to Puzzle No 17,150

Solution to Puzzle No 17,155

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,156

A prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first of three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, 1 Virginia Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs A. Boys-Strong, Randle House, Corbridge, Northumberland; Mr M. Fairbank, Elder Cottages, Hatch Beauchamp, Taunton, Somerset; Dr J. Mackay, The Old Post Office, Tormarton, Badminton, Northavon.

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